WORLD / A28
53 killed as truck bomb demolishes Pakistan hotel

NEWS / A5
GMA leaves for US, to meet with bank execs

LEARNING / I1
School produces women graduates committed to social change

METRO / A25
72 students hospitalized after eating food in Tondo school canteen

Obese men less likely to have kids, says study

NEW YORK—BEING obese may dim a man's chances of becoming a father, even if he is otherwise healthy, a new study suggests.

Researchers found

(MORE) A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, September 22, 2008 ★ 13 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 289 P18 www.inquirer.net

THE FIERCENESS OF a storied basketball rivalry is reflected in this photo, showing Ateneo's Rabeh Al-Hussaini drawing a foul from James Mangahas of De La Salle, as Mangahas' Indonesian teammate Ferdinand tries to help. STORY ON SPORTS

Bush plans to buy $700B in bad assets

It's largest rescue since 1928 crash

WASHINGTON—THE BUSH administration has asked Congress for authority to buy $700 billion in toxic assets clogging the US financial system and threatening the economy as negotiations began on the largest bailout since the Great Depression.

The rescue plan would give Washington broad powers to purchase bad mortgage-related assets from US financial institutions for the next two years. It does not specify which institutions qualify or what, if anything, the government would get in return for the unprecedented infusion.

In a fact sheet released on Saturday night, the treasury department said it was seeking latitude for its recovery and the Federal Reserve chief to expand the bailout to save US companies if they determined it was necessary to stabilize markets, but the original request sent to Congress is limited to firms headquartered in the United States, according to a copy obtained by The Associated Press.

Democrats are pressing that the plan help more strapped borrowers stay in their homes and to condition the bailout on new limits on executive compensation.

Congressional aides and administration officials are working through the

MAIN/ A21

HAROONED by the flood, an evacuee from the fighting in Mindanao and from the monsoon rains sleeps away life's troubles, while a companion plows for her home. MORE PHOTOS

500,000 evacuees need food aid

By Fernanda del Mundo
Chief, I Now

DATU PIANG, MAGUINDANAO—AID agencies are mobilizing emergency assistance to meet a potential "double whammy" in Central Mindanao—widening monsoon flooding and a possible full-scale war at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

SPECIAL REPORT

Fighting between government forces and so-called "lawless" elements of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has triggered what is now described as the worst humanitarian crisis in the area in five years.

Local aid workers say the government has so far been unable to provide the required assistance to war-affected populations, but appears to shy away from supporting appeals for foreign aid that will politicize and "internationalize" the problem, making it lose face.

Donors are reportedly waiting for the signal from the Arroyo administration to move in.

Ironically, the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), formed under

MAIN/ A20

Blue Eagles claw Archers in Game 1 of UAAP Finals

GAME THIS FRIDAY | Ateneo Coliseum
8 p.m.—Individual Awards Ceremony
9 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle
(Game 2, best-of-three Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO'S BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS this season has Rabeh Al-Hussaini's name written all over it.

From strong inside plays to soft perimeter touches, Al-Hussaini again proved too dominant for La Salle's frontline as he powered the Blue Eagles to a 69-61 Game 1 victory over the Green Archers in the UAAP men's basketball competition yesterday before a boisterous, sellout crowd at the Ateneo Coliseum.

Al-Hussaini finished with 31 points and nine rebounds as Ateneo moved to within a win of capturing the UAAP crown.

He took over the game in the closing quarters by scoring 20 of Ateneo's 23 points in the second half as top gunner Chris Tiu, for the first time, picked up more fouls than points and was relatively ineffective against La Salle.

"I had to play Rabeh more minutes than I would have liked because of the

MAIN/A1

DSWD: Gov't has P40M more for the displaced

By Jocelyn R. Uy

WITH ABOUT P1 BILLION in calamity funds, the government does not need to sound the alarm bells for international aid for the hundreds of thousands of people displaced by war and flooding in Central Mindanao, according to Social Welfare Secretary Esper

DSWD/ A6

Capitalist doctrine tumbles

By Amando Doronila

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION unveiled over the weekend a plan authorizing the government to take over $700 billion in worthless assets and bad debts held by failing institutions in the largest financial bailout ever taken by any American administration since the Great Depression.

ANALYSIS

Declaring that the United States was facing "unprecedented challenges," President George W. Bush said, "This is a pivotal moment for America's economy," as the government was set to take "unprecedented measures" to restore the financial system's health.

Although the full details of the rescue plan have not been released, it would give sweeping powers to the government to dispense gigantic sums of tax money sheltered from judicial review. Bush said the plan would allow "the federal government's purchase of illiquid assets such as troubled mortgages from banks and other financial institutions."

The precedent-shattering financial intervention marked a watershed in

CAPITALIST/ A9

Pakistan blast: RP sticks it out with antiterror allies

By Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

THE PHILIPPINES AND ITS ALLIES in the fight against terrorism have more reasons now to stick together in the face of the devastating truck bomb attack on Marriott Hotel in Pakistan, a Malacañang official said yesterday.

At least 53 people were killed, including Czech Ambassador Ivo Zdarek, while more than 270 others—one of them a Filipina woman—were injured in the Saturday night attack, described as one of the deadliest terrorist strikes in Pakistan. (See story in The World, Page A28).

The bombing has prompted the Philippine National Police to place its forces on alert.

"All the more, we should have unity of purpose with our allies," Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said, shrugging off suggestions for the Philippines to review its policy of supporting the US-led global fight against terror.

PAKISTAN/ A2

From LPG to sawdust, charcoal, rice husk

Lifestyle

(Editor's Note: Let's not go there over again—that times are tough. You and I know it. We're going through it. Enough said. It's time to do something. Now. And quick.

The Inquirer proposes how—for every aspect of your life. Let us know about your own suggestions that are working to get you through the rough times. If we are together, we can do it—tough out the rough times.)

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jaan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Project Editor

VERGIE, A MOTHER OF A 20-MONTH-OLD boy, uses two glass bottles of ketchup every time she prepares her improvised stove for cooking—a rather strange practice for people unfamiliar with the contraption.

The stove is a rusty four-liter paint can with an opening twice the size of a pen rests near the base, and three smaller holes just below the rim.

Vergie uses one bottle to tamp the sawdust around the other bottle that is made to sit in the middle of the can. When the second bottle is lifted after the pressing is done, a cylindrical cavity is formed. (See "How to use a sawdust stove" on Page A13.)

By Vergie's reckoning, her family is one of some 50 households using fuel-fuller (sawdust stove) in her immediate neighborhood in Sikatville, a community in Tawasan, Misamis Oriental City.

(SAWLPG/ A13)

VIRGIE cooks with her sawdust stove at her home in Tawasan, Misamis Oriental.

Crisis paints rosy picture for makers, sellers of charcoal

By Veit Contreras

"LET ME GIVE YOU MY CALLING card," said Elmer "Boyet" Villas, proudly a soup-selling (charcoal dealer).

The glossy, pink card put it quite simply: "Boyet's Charcoal—Wholesaler/Retailer."

At the Commonwealth Public Market in Quezon City, charcoal vendors like Villas have reasons to feel that everything's coming up roses in their sooty stalls these past few months, with record-high prices of cooking gas forcing not a few urban homes to turn to cheaper fuels.

Usually associated with dirty kitchens,

CRISIS/ A13

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 2D 29 12 1 16

SUERTRES 3D 3 5 7 4 2 4 5 6 1

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 8 19 24 26 31 43 P65,996,582.40

Full disclosure sought on budget insertions

SEN. MORIAN DEFENSOR SANTIAGO has called for a full disclosure of budgetary insertions, particularly at the bicameral level where lawmakers "whisper" appeals for additional allocations for their pet projects.

"If [bicameral conference] is one of the great secrecy of evil because that is where everything is kept secret, anything that are never taken up in plenary session is either the Senate or the House are taken up for the first time," Santiago said.

She said lawmakers should only concede the one versions of the budget at the bicameral level and not add more to it.

Santiago was piqued that the Senate's own Legislative Budget Review and Monitoring Office (LBRMO) had refused to provide her with a copy of the budgetary insertions made during the bicameral meeting. She recently asked for a list of the insertions to verify allegations that Sen. President Manuel Villar had sought a double allocation for the C-5 road extension project in the 2008 budget.

Big mystery

Public works officials said that P300 million was allocated each for two different portions of the road project.

"What is the big mystery here? I later had no problem getting information from the budget office since I represent a district in NOV. I think the media should investigate this and it will be answered by the use of the amounts," Santiago said.

Any changes to the budget should be treated like any amendment to the law where it is debated on the floor and the motion to insert and in effect explained."

If there was really nothing wrong with these insertions, Santiago said the public should be made fully aware of each and every amendment. "This is a mystery, a secret, that is spoken about in whispers. We should whisper it to the entire Philippines," she said.

She said congressional insertions were condemnable because they were done secretly, and some senators get more money than others, while others did not even ask for anything at all.

Nothing wrong

Senators Ma. Ronna, Pia Cayetano, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Richard Gordon, Benigno Aquino III, Francis Escudero and Juan Miguel Zubiri have owned up to asking for budgetary accommodations but said there was nothing wrong with the requests.

Santiago said she never sought congressional insertions because she believed that any budgetary change hidden from the public eye was too condemnable.

She reckoned that the double insertion controversy was an attack on the entire budgetary process, particularly the 2008 budget, which sees why she called for an independent review of the entire budgetary process.

"For me, it is not offensive for the Senate as a whole; it is in order of self-cleansing on the part of the Senate before someone else does it for us. It was an attack on the budget process," she said.

She proposed that all decisions by the bicameral conference be printed and circulated to members of both houses of Congress three days before the panel's ratification of the bicameral committee report in order to open abuses by bicameral committee members. (BEC) Cabacungan Jr.

5 Villar lots on new C-5 road, say papers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR OWNED more than three hectares along the C-5 road extension project that were annexed by the government for slightly over half a billion pesos, according to documents.

Ernesto M. Francisco provided the business with official documents that showed that of the 23 lots on the path of the C-5 project between Multinational Village and 305 Sucat road in Paranaque, five had titles that bore the name of "Cong. M. Villar" as landowner.

The five titles covered a total of 31,044 square meters, which were valued by the Metro Manila Development Authority appraisal committee at P983,296 million or between P34,000 and P50,000 per square meter.

"Yes, that is where President Manny Villar," said Francisco in a phone interview. "The Senate should find out if the five lots were appraised by eight-of-may acquisition of the C-5 link."

Francisco said the investigation should determine if there was violation of Article VI, Section 14 of the Constitution.

The provision prohibits any senator or congressman from having any financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract with the government, or any of his agencies during his office and from intervening in any matter before any office of the government for his pecuniary benefit or where he may be called to act on account of his office. Numbers and in a statement.

The C-5 road controversy was sparked by Sen. Panfilo Lacson's discovery of a double allocation of P200 million for the road project under a different name.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has admitted that it was Villar who lobbied to provide another P200 million for the C-5 road extension. Villar who declared that he was open to investigation, said he did appeal for extra funding for C-5 without specifying any amount.

Public works officials said P200 million each would be allocated for two sections of the road project.

The Senate has no choice but to look into Villar's culpability in the project with the same "urgency" it showed in going after scandals involving President Macapagal-Arroyo such as the Hello Garci tapes, fertilizer scam and the unexpired national broadband network project, according to Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago in 2007.

VILLAR

Francisco earlier came out with a document showing the sale by Villar's property firm, Brittany Corp., of 6,320 square meters of land to the government for P92,320 million or P15,000 per square meter in 2003. Brittany, however, declared it never received "P92 million or any other amount from the Toll Regulatory Board or any other state body affected by the C-5 extension project."

"Considering that the TRB needed in any case have negotiated the property had Brittany refused to sell it, Brittany eventually agreed to convey the property to the government. Brittany however never ever received, much less claimed, any payment for the [property]," said Brittany spokesperson Salen Cabing.

Francisco claimed that this lot was part of a 22,345-square-meter property which Brittany says it was still known as Atalia, bought for P1.035 million or P2245 per square meter in 1995.

Ayala Land

Francisco also pointed out that Brittany sold 23,483 square meters of the same property in 2003 to Ayala Land for P34.635 million or P93,370 per square meter.

Before Villar was elected senator in 2004, he served as Las Piñas congressman for three straight terms from 1992 to before Chief Speaker in 1998.

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OFW TRAINING

On behalf of overseas Filipino workers, Vice President Noli de Castro (left) receives training curriculum, software and computers from Microsoft Philippines managing director Rafael Rubio (second from left) during turnover ceremonies at Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Friday. With them are Overseas Workers Welfare Administration chief Carmelita Dimzon (center), Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute president and founder Susan Ople, and Labor Secretary Marianito Roque.

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RP won't agree to commando plan to rescue abducted seamen

By Tarra Quismundo

WITH 48 FILIPINO SEAMEN now in the hands of Somali rebels, the Department of Foreign Affairs has vetoed in opposition to international calls for military action to end the spate of pirate attacks off the Horn of Africa.

The Philippines expressed concern that armed engagement might endanger the lives of the Filipino seamen now in rebel hands. Undersecretary for Philippine Overseas Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. said.

Conejos made the statement in response to reported "commando" operations being planned by European and North American navies to rescue their nationals abducted by Somali rebels in the Gulf of Aden.

Pirates have called on the United Nations Security Council for a "coordinated international response" to the Somali piracy problem. On Saturday, Spain sent reconnaissance planes to patrol the troubled waters. A European Union task force created last week added for united action to put an end to the ship attacks.

'Peaceful solution'

Over 30 ships have been attacked and held for ransom since the start of the year in the Gulf of Aden, now considered the most dangerous maritime area in the world.

The DFA said it favors a peaceful resolution to the problem.

"We always say that what should be done is prevent the kidnapping, or are risk-reducing our seafarers. A military strike can be done before pirates seize a ship, but when they (pirates) are already aboard, we can't have a military engagement," Conejos said in a recent press briefing.

"We have to resolve it peacefully," the official said.

Conejos said maritime patrols of allied navies have been scanning international waters within the narrow gulf to protect tourist and trade vessels passing the area.

Advisory to ships

He said ships traversing the gulf have been advised to stay east of the 2900-east-of-Socotra boundary of Somalia and stick to international waters under the watch of coalition forces.

Of the 13 ships Somali rebels seized since July, seven had Filipino crew members. One Filipino died in one of the attacks in August while nine were released recently—reportedly after ship owners paid about $1 million in ransom.

While deployment restrictions are tough to implement, Conejos said vessels with Filipino crew members have been advised to entirely use the sea lane off the West of Africa that is protected by naval forces of the United States, Canada and countries in Europe.

Probe of nursing schools without hospital ties urged

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RECRUITMENT AGENCIES are calling on the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to investigate a growing number of nursing schools without linkages to hospitals, saying these schools are partly to blame for the country's "oversupply" of nursing graduates.

Leo Soriano, a consultant to the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters, also said the government industry would soon ask the commission to come up with a list of nursing schools that have had "recurring errors" to licensure examinations.

"Certain nursing schools are performing below par and their students and members to the oversupply of nursing graduates," Soriano told reporters in a recent interview.

Such graduates, despite passing the board exams, mostly failed to land jobs in reputable medical institutions because of lack of training and experience in a hospital environment, he said.

Soriano, whose agency LSS Recruitment specializes in the deployment of nurses to call-to hospitals in Saudi Arabia, noted the exciting number of unemployed nurses is due proliferation of nursing schools without partner hospitals.

"In a result, their access undergo the required on-the-job training in small hospitals to nothing time (in the provinces)," said Soriano, also former president of the Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc.

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MAYON BALA MACHINERY

Obese men less likely to have kids, says study

From page A1

first among 87 healthy men aged 19 to 48, those who were obese were less likely to have ever fathered a child.

More importantly, they showed hormonal differences that point to a reduced reproductive capacity, the researchers reported in the journal Fertility and Sterility.

Compared with their thinner counterparts, obese men had lower levels of testosterone (which binds), as well as lower levels of luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH)—both necessary to reproduction.

According to the researchers, these relatively low levels of LH and FSH are suggestive of a "partial" hypogonadotropic hypogonadism. This is a condition in which the testes do not function properly due to signaling problems in the hypothalamus or pituitary gland, two brain structures involved in hormone secretion.

The findings suggest that obesity alone is an "infertility factor" in otherwise healthy men, according to Dr. Eric M. Pauli and his colleagues at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey.

Obese range

Of the 87 men in the study, 66 percent had had a child. Pauli's team found that the average body mass index, or BMI, was lower among those men compared with those who'd never fathered a child.

In the group who had had children, the average BMI was 28, which falls into the range for "overweight," while the average BMI for childless men was nearly 32, which falls into the "obese" range.

Dampened libido

When the researchers measured the tests for several reproductive hormones, they found that the more obese a man was, the lower was his LH and FSH levels. On the other hand, increasing obesity corresponded with increasing estrogen levels.

Excess body fat, Pauli's team explained, may increase the conversion of testosterone to estrogen in a man's blood. Such hormone alterations could, in turn, signal the brain to suppress FSH and LH production.

Past studies have linked obesity with a dampened libido and increased risk of erectile dysfunction, the researchers noted.

Those effects, along with the hormonal alterations seen in this study, could act together to decrease an obese man's fertility, according to the researchers.

Reuters

Eagles claw Archers

From page A1

lead (double, lane last clockwise), he delivered big time," said Azores coach Dionisio Black.

At Humanic, the 6-foot-6 Azores star who has virtually clinched the Most Valuable Player award in what has been a breakout season for him, fell just a basket short of his career-high output in his almost single-handedly pushed defending champion La Salle to UAAP reign to the brink.

And as if Al-Hussaini wasn't too much for the Archers' undersized frontline to worry about, rookie sensation Ryan Buenafe had his way underneath, grabbing 11 rebounds to go with 12 points. Buenafe's performance came after spare hints both on Reddie of the Year honors.

Backups came through

As Reyes helped the Azores onset, riding over from The and scoring 12 points aside from performing defensive chores with aplomb. Shot-blocking ace Henry Buchipondo and a season-high seven blocks including two crucial ones on Jason Mangahas and Rex Mandrebe in the closing minutes.

"We were very fortunate that our back-ups, our second unit players really stepped in and held the fort for us," said Black, who admitted he "wasn't prepared" when Tha fell into early foul trouble.

Tha, reigning Azores King Eagle, finished with just two points—a jumper with 3:24 remaining—but gave the Eagles a 65-52 advantage—his managed to make his presence felt by contributing three rebounds and four assists.

The Eagles will shoot for their fourth overall championship in Game 2 of the best-of-three series at 4 p.m. this Thursday also at the Big Dome.

'Don't count us out'

"We are down but not out," said coach Franz Pumaren, whose Archers have yet to win over the Eagles in three encounters this season. "We didn't bring our 4-game today. I'm still confident. It takes two games to win this series."

About 20,000 paying fans filled the coliseum to the rafters, with some paying scalpers more than P20,000 for the prime tickets originally priced at P250.

Taking full control in the third period, the Eagles led by as many as 14 points at 51-37 following an Al-Hussaini putback off his own miss.

Although the Archers rallied behind JP Calderon and Reddie Mallari to close the gap to six, 55-49, early in the fourth period, Al-Hussaini again took over by knocking in six of the Eagles' next eight points to give them a 65-52 spread heading into the final three minutes.

Unable to the Archers with 28 points, while Rex Mandrebe posted a double-double of 17 markers and 15 boards.

Bodyguards hired

On the eve of the blockbuster match, a celebrity source told the business that five Tha family hired bodyguards to look after the safety of their son. Chris after unidentified people reportedly tried to approach the Azores superstar in several instances.

A source said the Tha family did not want a repeat of the case of Ateo Barrinuevo, the late Eastern University standout who survived a brazen shooting incident two months ago. The standout, still at large, is widely believed to have links to a gang-fueling syndicate.

"There were people trying to contact him, but as far as I know, there are no serious security threats," said Ricky Palou, Azores's representative in the SAMFAMI.

Yesterday at the South Gate—the restaurant of team and school officials, media and league sponsors—several players mixed elevated the common noise on the official Run before leaving en masse.

Innovative table

With the game also drawing a sizable All class crowd, luxury car brands Porsche and Audi had set up showrooms at the coliseum lobbies.

Inside the venue, Azores also maintained an innovative Tinker Exchange table. For instance, if a La Salle fan secured up your-climbing six-dozen-side lower box ticket, he could have his same listed on the exchange list. He could then search on the Archers side if need an Ateneo fan holding a La Salle-side ticket of similar face value signs up his the trade.

With game passes at the Araneta coliseum hotels sold out, enabling personnel Retail Azores said the league decided to issue 1,000 more general admission tickets five hours before the game yesterday.

Boosting tickets sold online by as much as P50,000 he was pushing tickets originally priced at P350 each.

The and Eagles sat out most of the first half due to early foul woes, but it didn't stop the Eagles from taking a 36-29 lead at half time.

Mike Cantu gave the Archers their first and only lead following a three-point play, 20-19, the Eagles responded with a 10-0 spurt capped by a layup triple for their biggest lead in the first half at 36-29.

By halftime, the glaring statistic was the two two squads' shooting percentages with Ateneo posting a 44 percent clip (11-of-25) and La Salle at 24.3 percent (9-of-37).

During semi-ups before the game, the Eagles were ribbon black shirts with the number 24, the jersey number of Black while playing as an import with San Miguel.

Ateneo set the tone in jumpplay as the Blue Eagles held off a rallying the Eastern University for a 72-62 Game 1 triumph that pushed the the top seeds within a win of reclaiming the crown from defending of The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Tamaraws similarly survived a late rally for a 54-52 escape over the University of the Philippines Lady Maroons in the women's Finals.

Summary

ATENEO 58—49 Gonzalez 13, Buenafe 12, Reyes 12, Barroca 6, Cruz 5, Salamat 5, Tolentino 4, Ravena 2, Mendoza 0, Dionisio 0

LA SALLE 54—Cantu 18, Mandrebe 17, Mallari 7, Baracael 5, Calderon 5, Tiongson 2, Salenga 0, Cabagnot 0, Wahlstrom 0, Mendoza 0, Angeles 0, Alfaro 0

Statistics: FG: 25-56, 3FG: 7-19, 44.6%

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Date

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GMA to meet with bank experts in US

By Christine G. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR-royo will meet with financial and banking experts in New York this week to find out more about the US financial crisis, what she attends the third session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President will speak before the UN General Assembly to report on what are now doing and what we still have to do to attain our Millennium Development Goals," he said in an interview over government station Radyo ng Bayan.

The MDG include the UN's 8-point anti-poverty framework for conquering global poverty by 2015.

Danesa said it was important for the Arroyo to push through with the trip because poverty, hunger and education were her government's top concerns.

The President will also have a roundtable discussion with "high-level" financial and banking experts on the financial crisis rocking US banks and financial institutions.

Danesa said the country would be affected by the US financial crisis and the President wanted to be briefed on this. "Being an economist, she can also share her views with them."

Ms Arroyo will meet with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Ahmeddin Ihsanoglu.

"She will talk with OIC officials on the new peace policy of her government," he said, referring to the government's bid to refocus negotiations from armed peace to community and heart would only engage talks in the course of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

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Pakistan blast: RP sticks it out with antiterror allies

A VIEW of the destruction caused by a bomb explosion at Marriott Hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan. At least 53 people, including a Filipino woman, were killed. AP

From page A1

Davao said terrorism was a "global menace" that needed the help of "everyone" to quash.

Like Pakistan, President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration has allied itself with the United States in the war on terror. Since 2001, the Philippines has allowed US Special Forces to train Filipino troops in fighting terror groups in Mindanao.

Married to Pakistani

The Filipina booking victim, a woman hotel receptionist, was "in critical condition" in an Islamabad, Pakistan, hospital after sustaining injuries in the Marriott Hotel attack, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said. AP

The woman, who is married to a Pakistani national, is being treated at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad, the DFA said in a statement.

"The Philippine Embassy is closely monitoring her condition," it said.

The foreign office did not identify the woman and gave no details about the extent of her injuries, its last such a DFA presser which requires that a victim's family should be informed first.

Tighter security in hotels

PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr. yesterday ordered a tightening of security in hotels and vital installations in the country.

"We are also placing our security forces on alert against any possible attack here ... We are on alert," Razon said (the hyperactivity phase).

Razon, who is set to retire later this month, said that the police would increase their visibility and tighten patrol in hotels and other areas likely to be targeted by terrorists.

"We have also intensified our intelligence gathering and information sharing with various foreign agencies, such as the Interpol, our police counterparts, and the embassies," he said.

They can strike anywhere

"Terrorism knows no borders," Razon said when asked if, like Pakistan, the Philippines was vulnerable to terrorist attacks for its strong alliance with the United States.

He also said that the Philippines is not "home to transnational terrorists," like the Abu Sayyaf and the "transnational terrorists."

The Abu Sayyaf is linked to Saudi militant Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and has gained international notoriety for its kidnap-for-ransom activities targeting locals and foreigners, and for beheading some of its victims. With a report from Nova Y. Quimosing

A YOUNG girl catches her brother through the flooded town hall serving as an evacuation center in Dasa Pang, Magalalanao. AFP

DSWD: Gov't has P40M more for the displaced

From page A1

areas Cabral.

She said the P40 million remaining of the P100 million quick response fund of the Department of Social Welfare and Development was still enough to help the thousands of families ensnared in temporary shelters and evacuation centers in Mindanao.

"Calling for international help is no solution I can make unilaterally but by the National Disaster Coordinating Council. But [based on my assessment], we don't need international help because we can handle the situation ourselves," Cabral told the Inquirer over the phone on Friday.

"While aid is always welcome, the decision to call for help domestically is to be made by the government based on its assessment," she added.

Since the fighting broke out early last month in the region, the department has provided assistance worth P16.75 million to more than 114,000 families, or some 528,000 persons, affected by the armed conflict.

123 evacuation centers

The department's records show that 14,000 families or more than 69,000 people have sought shelter in 123 evacuation centers since skirmishes between the military and the Moro rebels began.

They come from 104 barangays, 39 towns, two cities and nine provinces in Northern Mindanao (Region X), Soccsksargen (Region 11) and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

For Northern Mindanao alone, the department has released P1.2 million for the construction of bunk houses and the purchase of relief goods.

It has also deployed its quick response and social welfare and development teams to manage evacuation centers and operate community kitchens. The teams have conducted supplemental feeding for roughly 1,000 children, aged zero to six years old, in evacuation centers in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte, according to the department.

P10-M stockpile

The department also has a stockpile of P10 million worth of goods for victims of the war and flooding in Central Mindanao, Cabral said.

"At present, we are not without stockpile of our quick response fund but the President has a calamity fund that can be tapped when our resources run low," she said.

Off-hand, Cabral said, the calamity fund which the department could tap from the President's coffers was about P1 billion.

"Even if that were to be connected, there will be other funds the President can tap," she said.

Cabral added: "We are expecting of dealing with any kind of situation as far as disaster and relief response is concerned. But we can also call on all agencies of the government to help."

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US court dismisses Joc-Joc petition

By Lala B. Salaverria

ROLANTE

A SECOND ATTEMPT by former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante to avoid being deported back to the Philippines has been rebuffed by a United States court.

The US District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin dismissed the petition for habeas corpus filed last month by Bolante, who allegedly figures prominently in the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Bolante's latest court defeat was good news as this cleared the final hurdle in his return to the country.

Bolante's first habeas corpus petition was rejected in 2006 because US federal courts had no jurisdiction over deportation cases.

In a Sept. 5 ruling, a copy of which was provided by lawyer Harry Roque of the Center for International Law, the court said it could not rule on Bolante's request to be released from detention.

"The court concludes that it lacks jurisdiction to reconsider the previous, and in each, the petition is dismissed," said Judge Charles Clevert Jr. in his ruling.

US visa revoked

It also ordered the revocation of the US Supreme Court's ruling on prisoners in Guantanamo prison. In the case, the high court ruled that prisoners had a right to habeas corpus.

Bolante, in his petition filed on Aug. 15, argued that the revocation of his US visa, which led to his detention in July 2006, was unlawful.

He said the revocation was made without due informing him and that the basis for the revocation remained unclear.

"This, he said, his conviction was also illegal "because it stems from the underlying erroneous visa revocation."

Bolante also alleged, through his lawyers, that he only received the letters informing him of the consular officer's visa revocation when he filed a request for asylum. This, he said, showed that the cause for the revocation was "palpably pretextual and overturned."

He said he was first informed that his visa had been revoked because of an arrest warrant issued by the Senate. But letters showed that the revocation was done because US authorities thought he intended to immigrate to America.

When sought for comment, Roque said Bolante's filing of seamless habeas corpus plea, after his first petition was denied in 2006, showed he was desperate not to return to the Philippines and testify in the fertilizer fund scam.

He's "running scared," Roque said.

No asylum

Earlier, the US Court of Appeals also denied Bolante's plea for political asylum, saying he did not appear to be in danger of persecution should he return to the Philippines, adding that it was prosecution for his alleged involvement in a corruption scandal that he faced.

Asked if Bolante had other options, Roque said the former agriculture undersecretary could bring the lower court's denial of his asylum plea to the US Supreme Court.

Roque earlier said Bolante could file a motion for reconsideration on the Court of Appeals ruling. If he loses this, the Supreme Court could take about 90 days to rule on his petition. With a report from Jill C. Cabreros and Jr

2,500 join 8-km run for peace

By Tina G. Santos

ALMOST 2,500 PEACE ADVOCATES FROM 88 various government agencies and non-government organizations yesterday joined a 8-km run-walk-bike to show support for the need for peace in Mindanao.

"Run for Peace," covering 8 kilometers from the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta, Manila to the Film Center at the CCP Complex, was an expression of sympathy and concern for the victims of hostilities in Mindanao as well as indignation over violence.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's representative Undersecretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who led the activity, said this was also a call for sustainable peace, not only in Mindanao but also for the entire country.

"As we all know, peace is the solution to a lot of problems and the key toward economic development," he said.

Actress Gabby Concepcion, who elected drinks from female participants, also joined the fun run. He was mobbed by women who wanted to get a glimpse of the actor or have their pictures taken with him.

"Run for Peace" was organized by the Office of the President as part of the celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Week. One of the highlights was the symbolic signing of a joint statement by representatives of participating government agencies and private organizations.

THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE (PPSC) CONDUCTS A 3-DAY SYMPOSIUM/ SEMINAR- WORKSHOP ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AT THE ESCARCHA HALL, PPSC FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY.

THEME: THE ROLE OF THE POLICE AND THE PROSECUTION: AN ANALYSIS OF A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

DAY ONE, September 23, 2008, Tuesday

8:00- 9:30 AM (Opening Ceremony)

- Registration — Secretariat
- National Anthem — PPSC Choir
- Prayer — PPSC Chaplain
- Welcome Remarks — **Margarita B. Cajayngos President, PPSC**
- Leveling Expectations — Program Director

Plenary Session

10:00AM- 10:30AM — Keynote Address — **Mr. Robert E. Courtney, III Attache US Department of Justice Embassy of the United States of America, Manila**

10:30AM- 11:00AM — Keynote Address — **Hon. Jovencito R. Zuño Chief State Prosecutor Department of Justice**

Plenary Session (Afternoon Activity)

1:30PM- 2:00PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Police in C.J. Process — **P/Supt Joel Napoleon M. Coronel Chief, Criminal Investigation and Detection Division CIDG, PNP**

Open Forum

2:00PM- 2:30PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Prosecution in C.J. — **Atty. Emmanuel Y. Velasco Senior State Prosecutor, DOJ**

Open Forum

2:30PM- 2:30PM (Break)

3:30PM- 4:00PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Court in the C.J. Process (Case Litigation) — **Hon. Wilsiere M. Damoyan Executive Judge Makati City Regional Trial Courts City Hall of Makati**

Open Forum

DAY TWO, September 24, 2008, Wednesday

Plenary Session (Morning Activity)

9:00AM- 10:00AM
- Paper Presentation — Rules on Criminal Procedure — **Atty. Caroline J. Eguerro Asst. City Prosecutor Makati City Prosecution Office**

Open Forum

10:00AM- 10:30AM (Break)

10:30AM- 11:30AM
- Paper Presentation — Rules on Evidence — **Atty. Caroline J. Eguerro Asst. City Prosecutor Makati City Prosecution Office**

Plenary Session (Afternoon Activity)

1:30PM- 2:00PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Police in C.J. Process — **PCInsp Alfulo G. Cocabac Director PNP Crime Laboratory Group**

Open Forum

2:00PM- 2:30PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Prosecution in C.J. — **P/Supt Jose Rory T. Ferro SOCO Officer Crime Laboratory Group, PNP**

Open Forum

2:30PM- 2:30PM (Break)

3:30PM- 4:00PM
- Paper Presentation — Role of Court in the C.J. Process (Case Litigation) — **National Forensic Science Training Institute**

Open Forum

DAY THREE, September 25, 2008, Thursday

"Crime Scene Processing, Collection/ Handling, Case Build Up, Case Filing, Monitoring, Follow Up, Coordinating with Prosecution, Appearance in Court and Giving of Testimony for Case Resolution"

Morning Activity

9:00AM- 11:00AM
- Synthesis of Day Two — **Program Director**
- Workshop Mechanics

Role Playing — Police role in Criminal Investigation From gathering of evidence and presentation

Role Playing — Prosecutor's role in Criminal Investigation, Inquest Procedures, Preliminary Investigation, Resolution of Cases, Prosecution and Appearance in Court

Role Playing — Court's Role in Litigation of Criminal Cases For Trial and Adjudication (Case Presentation Oral Testimony of Police Under The Direction & Control of Fiscal)

Afternoon Session (Closing Ceremony)

1:30PM- 3:00PM
- National Anthem
- Prayer
- Welcome Remarks
- Synthesis/ Recaps
- Awarding of Certificates
- Closing Remarks
- PPSC Hymn

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 22, 2008
25th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Prv 3:27-34
Gospel: Lk 8:16-18

Jesus said to his disciples, "No one, after lighting a lamp covers it with a bowl or puts it under the bed, rather he puts it on a lampstand so that people coming in may see the light. In fact there is nothing hidden that shall not be uncovered, nothing kept secret that shall not be known, clearly. Now take care how well you listen, for whoever produces will be given more, but from those who produce nothing even what they seem to have will be taken away from them."

Commentary:

The Gospel tells from God, we can see God the Lord. He puts us in the position of sharing our relationship with Jesus and the experience into the flow from our faith. When we can, we try to "put our trust" on the Lord, something else we are on earth we can do.

Moments of quiet reflection bring us to an awareness of how we also have discovered the goodness of God, and how we have lived up to the challenge of being our light shine before all. May such moments bring us the grace of ministry repentance and ongoing conversion of heart.

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Capitalist doctrine tumbles

Front page 1

US history as a Republican administration turned its back on the ideological creed that the best government is less government.

Bush acknowledged this historic shift when he said, the federal government "should interfere in the marketplace only when necessary," but that "given the precarious state of today's financial markets, and their vital importance to the American people, government intervention is not only warranted, it is essential." No Republican president ever said this before.

The plan would risk "a significant amount" of taxpayers' money, Bush said, but "inaction is worse" and was needed to keep the US economy from grinding to a halt as problems sparked by the credit crisis had begun to spread through the entire financial system—leaving jobs, pensions and companies under threat.

BUSH: Pivotal moment in US economy.

Risks to taxpayers

"These are risks the US cannot afford to take," he said. "But most are sure to protect economic health from serious risk."

Bush acknowledged the risks to the taxpayers in the sweeping government intervention to rescue failing financial institutions. He said he worried the financial crisis couldn't "easily ripple through" the economy and affect average citizens, but "the risk of doing nothing far outweighs the risks of the package ... Over time, we're going to get a lot of money back."

He added: "People are beginning to doubt our system. People sense losing confidence and I understand it's important to have confidence in our financial system."

In the twilight of his presidency, Bush, who is saddled with a sinking popularity rating over the US war in Iraq, should be haunted by the memory that the October 1929 Wall Street Great Crash took place during the Republican administration of President Herbert C. Hoover.

Bush's doctrinal apostasy in the 2008 financial crisis is taking place under the shadow of the Great Depression. The rescue package would give the government stronger regulatory powers over financial institutions.

Last weekend's many sweeping federal interventions followed the government bailout of two leading Wall Street institutions, Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers, and extension of an $85-billion loan to American International Group (AIG), the world's largest insurance company, to prevent its collapse which was feared might precipitate a worldwide financial breakdown.

More than averting a global financial crisis, the series of interventions depicted a profound transformation of the global financial system, probably with more far-reaching consequences than the Wall Street Crash of 1929.

Fed stretched to limit

Economists worldwide were quick to note the tectonic seismic shift in the events of the past few weeks. From the interventions of the Federal Reserve, the New York Times noted that the Fed was being stretched to its limits, both in the range of problems it is being asked to fix and in its financial firepower.

"The central bank has also transformed itself almost overnight into The Fed Inc. by essentially taking over American International Group after already taking on hundreds of billions of dollars in mortgage securities to help ailing financial institutions," the Times said.

"Instead of just setting monetary policy in its cozy corner like setting, the Fed now must wear several hats at the insurance conglomerate, investment banker."

Investor of last resort

The Times quoted Allen Meltzer, a professor of economics at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, who said, "This is unique, and the Fed has never done something like this before. If you go all the way back to 1913, when banks were failing and Congress was holding on the Fed to Bill (their use, the Fed always said, 'It's not our business; it never regarded itself as an all-purpose agency'."

The Times added: "The Fed has often been described as the country's lender of last resort ... the one institution that would lend money when everything else had failed. But by acquiring almost 80 percent of AIG in exchange for lending it $85 billion, and holding $29 billion in securities once owned by Bear Stearns, the Fed is now becoming the investor of last resort as well ... But in the past few months, the central bank has transformed itself from a regulator of the money supply in a white knight for troubled financial institutions."

Other quarters observed a qualitative change in US financial interventions.

Double standard

The Agence France Presse (AFP) noted: "The US criticized the Asian intervention for attempting to bail out cash-starved companies during the regional financial crisis a decade ago, yet now throws a lifeline to its companies ravaged by credit crisis." It said this were "smacks of double standards."

The move to rescue financially stricken companies, such as AIG, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and investment bank Bear Stearns contrasted with the approach taken by the United States and the International Monetary Fund during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, according to AFP.

The region was told to let inefficient corporations bleed to death.

Shoe on other foot

Raghuram Rajan, chief economist at the IMF between 2003 and 2006, told AFP: "I guess some of the pundits in Washington arguing against government action being used to bail out local companies in Asia at the time are now basically for various government interventions."

Now the shoe is on the other foot. "Well, it's ethnic. I tell you that you realize what other countries were experiencing," he said. "It's all very well to say, 'Let the financial system go, let it find its equilibrium.'

"But when it is in the face of speculative attacks and prices are being hammered and it looks like the largest institutions are going to collapse, it is pretty natural for the government to step in and say 'We don't let this happen.'" (Contributed to Wednesday in my column.)

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Sabio asks SC to reverse suspension

SABIO: "Good faith, sincere motives."

By Leila B. Salaverria

ANNULLATE JUSTICE JOSE SABIO JR. HAS asked the Supreme Court to reverse its decision suspending him for two months for improperly discussing the controversial Mendoza case with his brother, who is an executive official, and with another businessman.

Sabio, in his motion for reconsideration filed on Sept. 17, insisted that he did nothing wrong since it was his brother, Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Camilo Sabio, who had called him up to discuss the case and that the justice did not intervene in his brother's demands.

Sabio also said that when businessman Francis de Borja met up with him at the Ateneo Law School, he had no idea that the latter would offer him a P1.9 million bribe allegedly on behalf of Mendoza to retailer (unsalted) Dozo the case.

De Borja has denied offering a bribe on Mendoza's behalf, and said it was the judge who told him about being offered a Supreme Court seat and money in order to factor of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and wanted P50 million to reject the offer.

The Supreme Court, however, found Sabio's version more credible.

Acting in good faith

Sabio said he acted "in good faith and with sincere motives" as the appellate court, speaking out on what has been happening there.

"Your Honors, it took all of the courage that Justice Sabio could muster, against the advice of his closest friends and allies, and in spite of his own fears, to act with and compassion," he said in his motion for reconsideration.

Sabio noted that both parties in Mendoza's case against the GSIS were among the country's most powerful and wealthiest, and he had to contend with them as well as with his brother.

He could have kept quiet as advised by friends, he said, but felt it was his duty to speak up. He also denied that he was afraid a Supreme Court seat to rule in favor of GSIS, adding that if this were so, he would not have mentioned his brother's phone call.

Suspension, disbarment

Lawyer Wenando Pe de also filed a petition asking the high court to admonish or suspend Sabio from the practice of law for raising his brother's and De Borja's call, refusing to yield chairmanship of the division, recalling the Mendoza case and preparing a resolution asking the GSIS to comment on Mendoza's petition for another justice to chair the division.

Pe de, who earlier sought the disbarment of the PCGG chair for calling up his brother to discuss the Mendoza case, said that under the Code of Professional Responsibility, judges should not allow family to influence judicial conduct.

In his motion for reconsideration, Sabio said it was not his fault that his brother had called him up and requested his help.

"If Justice Sabio did not in answer a phone call from his brother Camilo who solicited Justice Sabio's support. Which Justice Sabio denied, declined and dismissed. Where is the impropriety that the Justice committed?" he said.

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Central Luzon 'crucial' in fight vs martial rule, says ex-NPA chief

ANGELES CITY—RODOLFO SALAS still regards Central Luzon and its people with high respect.

Salas, 60, commander-in-chief of the New People's Army (NPA) since 1976 and chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) starting 1977 until his arrest in 1986, said this admiration has not waned even as his memory of the martial law years remains fresh.

In his view, the CPP and NPA survived martial rule and expanded to other parts of the country due to the "ground rules" Central Luzon and its masses made and the symbol of the country's history.

"The region played key roles in two stages," Salas said. Back then, he went by the nom de guerre Ka Amado Bilog.

He said the pre-martial law era began with long marches, originating at first in Angeles City, Bacolor and Tarlac later coming from Bulacan, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Cordillera. In 1969, workers, farmers, teachers, urban poor women and students trooped in tens of thousands to Mendiola.

These forms of mass action followed the founding of the CPP in 1968 in Malolos, Pampanga, and the NPA in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, in 1969. Salas was then the CPP regional secretary and NPA assistant training officer.

He said, "When Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, there was no other option but an armed struggle against the dictatorship."

SALAS PHOTO FROM

Sanctuary

Negative feelings and exposure like guilty were the safest alternatives for members of the student group Kabataang Makabayan, labor group Kamanggagawa, Federation of Free Farmers or their Gloria, teachers group Kapatiran and the women's group Makibaka, among others, he said.

In two years, the police and military hunted down their activists, locking them up in stockades and when these places got crowded, kept the detainees in public gyms. Many disappeared or showed up tortured and dead.

"Many activists from Metro Manila retreated to Central Luzon. The numerous mines provided sanctuaries to hundreds of activists, unless leaders, teachers and journalists," Salas said.

"By the time, the rule of Central Luzon became biggest it served as the reserve of NPA. This was where we did our recruitment and training and obtained our logistics. During the entire period of martial rule, Central Luzon remained a significant front for the armed struggle," Salas said.

He credited at Marcos for declaring the NPA as slayed so obviously as an excuse for declaring martial law.

Salas said, "It had some touch as it became the NPA actually grew. The real reason was Marcos' wanted to remain in power because he could not run for a third term anymore."

From 1969 to 1972, he said the NPA had only fewer than 1,000 guerrilla spread in Philippines. Today and Cambodia in Central Luzon, hotels and Nueva Vizcaya in northern Luzon, and some parts of Mind.

"When some among Bolos moderate were legal organizations, but they were later banned," Salas said.

Because most of the region's terrain was flat and river, the NPA maintained small platoons and squads that were "very mobile and flexible."

Recovery

Because this was the cradle, Central Luzon was among other regions that first got back on its feet after the overthrow of the years.

"Central Luzon recovered first because of the strong support of the masses. Although much of the terrain is plain, the masses served like mountainous. We immersed in them. Even if we move near military camps, we were safe, we managed to organize and expand the revolutionary movement," Salas said.

He described the region as "a fertile ground for the antidictatorship, antifeudal and antibureaucrat struggle." It has a concentrated population in the plains, the literacy and cultural levels of the people were high, it has a long revolutionary tradition from the time of the Katipunan, and its land was scarce, he said.

Starting 1974, party cadres and members, who learned how to organize workers and carry out revolutionary agrarian justice, were fielded to other regions to expand the party.

Aside from being a training ground for organizers, the region also provided logistics to the newly opened fronts.

Serve the people

During a hard and hungry time, Salas said, "What ruled us even was the support of the people. That's how we survived. That's how the movement grew. That support wasn't easily obtained. It was attained because the cadres, fighters and organizers faithfully served the interests of the masses. What that means is that they dealt with the problems of the people."

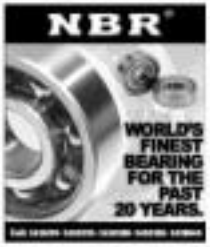
Released in 1992 after six years in prison, Salas saw a fractious CPP and decided to work outside of the organization. He returned to Hacienda Luisita, his home province, in 1995, organizing cooperatives to help folk displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruption's recovery.

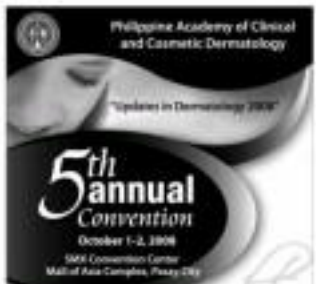
He said, "I consider myself part of a larger movement although I'm not a part of any political organization now. In my own way, I try to help out by helping cooperatives create employment" at Clark Freeport and in Angeles City.

He spends the nights of hrs. 22 with premarital law activists to remember the martyrs, fallen comrades and reinvigorate themselves to devote their lives to the national democratic struggle.

Some are still with the CPP, NPA and the National Democratic Front. Others are with the Bisaya Leader Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan. They were born in Central Luzon a decade ago.

He said these groups have reasons to exist and their members seek changes because while the martial rule period is over, "basic problems" still plague the nation. Jennifer Orosa, Inquirer Circle of Leaders Book





REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
EDSA, MANDALUYONG

IN THE MATTER OF THE
MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.
(Registrant)

REGISTRATION OF SECURITIES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Commission on ... 2008, a resolution was issued with the following and Exchange Commission to rend on behalf of Manila Water Company, Inc. (the "Company") for the registration of up to Php 4,000,000,000.00 in aggregate principal amount of fixed rate bonds, consisting of an initial offering amount of up to Php 1,000,000,000.00, due 2013 from date of issue, to be offered in one or more tranches.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the Company:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	POSITION
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Vice Chairman
Antonino T. Aquino	President
Delfin L. Lazaro	Director
Karl Stefan	Director
Victoria Bautista	Director
Augusto R. Bautista Jr.	Director
Ramon Ang	Director
Alberto J. Lugo	Director
Oscar S. Reyes	Director
Cesar E. A. Virata	Independent Director
Oscar M. Lopez	Independent Director
Edmund A. Reinmuth	Corporate Secretary

Independent directors appointed to the Board of Directors of the Company pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code.

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party of such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA CALLANGAN
Director
Corporate Finance Department

SEC - Nov. 20, 2008

From LPG to sawdust, charcoal, rice husk

From page A1

Many of the households have shifted to sawdust early this year when prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and kerosene soared beyond their reach. From P464-P500 on July 20, 2005, the dealer's pick-up price of an 11-kg LPG tank rose by 42 percent to P661-P700 on July 20, 2006.

Several of the neighborhood's iron tanker were to see in an alley and a vacant lot when the buyanera recently chopped by Virgin's home as lunchtime to leave how the store works.

"Sa umaka (kinderes pon and pans, but it saves us money," she says of her choice, comparing it with her LPG stove, which she has stowed in her tiny home. A dark blue 11-kg LPG cylinder from Caltex stands in one corner not far from the cloth hammock that holds her sleeping son.

Her partner, Edward Gloria, a barber, buys sawdust at 35 per sack from a nearby sash factory.

Virgie has been using the sawdust stove for more than two months now, saving her family a lot of money. Her family spends just P20 a month for cooking fuel because a sack of sawdust is good for one week.

By contrast, a liter of kerosene that costs her family more than P50 lasts only about two or three days. She used a kerosene stove for a week after her LPG stove broke down.

Savings dashed from the improvised stove are used for basic necessities, especially food. "But the savings are not enough because of other expenses," she says, like the monthly electricity bill and a loan from a "Bombay" (Her family pays more than P800 a month for electricity, including less than 50 kWh because of the hefty VAT being charged by the owner of the electric meter from which the family has connected a reference.)

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It was Virgie, hard-pressed to make ends meet, who thought of shifting to sawdust, urging husband to make the stove from an empty paint can upon the urging of a family.

A fellow tricycle driver, the home of the Ortizlas, a cluster of 10 households has also stopped using LPG. One of the families in Tibagan, San Pedro, Laguna, is that of Reynaldo Zabala, a welder, who has not used his LPG tank for the past nine months.

His family of three has shifted to charcoal. "What's painful about LPG is your plank drawn more than P400 for an 11-kg cylinder. So that," says Zabala, who earns P350 a day. "But LPG that he used to buy usually lasted 1 and ½ months.

"When the price of LPG shot up to P565, I stopped using it," he says. Zabala now spends P200, up from P180 in July, for a sack of charcoal that lasts his family three weeks.

Like the Zabalas, Bella de la Peña, a mother of three grown children in Hartdel, Bulacan, is keeping her LPG stove on standby.

Rice husks

Nine Rivenary Mills has been using clay kilns, a stove fueled by rice husk, enabling her to save the equivalent of five 11-kg tanks of Gasul (worth more than P3,000). Gasul, the LPG brand of Petron Corp., is good only for three weeks for Bella, who also cooks for her husband.

She gets the husks for free from the rice grower on several hectares of farmland that her husband manages in Hartdel town.

Bella has no plans of shifting back to LPG anytime soon. "Should its price drop to P200 per tank, I will go back to Gasul. At present the price is too steep," she says.

The shift to charcoal fuel by households that can no longer afford LPG has caused a significant drop in LPG sales.

Ibal Santos, president of the Shellane Dealers' Association, says the volume of LPG he sold in the past two years drop by about 20 percent. Shellane is the LPG brand of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Co.

"The decline is much bigger in the provinces," says Santos, whose dealership covers Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela in Metro Manila. The people in the provinces generally have lower incomes than residents of Metro Manila.

10-percent decline

A dealer of another brand in San Pedro, Laguna, however, has suffered a drop in sales of more than 50 percent over the past year. "In August last year, we were selling 500 LPG tanks for household use every month. Now, we could sell only about 250," says Carolyn Macatangay, operations manager of SEO-Silver Bright Inc.

The decline in the use of LPG and kerosene is a nationwide phenomenon, data obtained by the Inquirer from the Department of Energy show.

From 3.01 million barrels in the fourth quarter of 2006, LPG sales declined progressively to 2.86 million barrels, 2.81 million barrels and 2.84 million barrels.

Kerosene suffered a sharper drop during the period from 434,000 barrels to 371,000 barrels, 309,000 barrels and 317,000 barrels.

Middle-class households are also contributing to the decline. They are not abandoning the fuel, no cause, but many of them are not using LPG as often as they did before.

Three stories

Marlinda Balcom, who lives in a subdivision in Imus, Cavite, has turned to a stove, made of [illegible] big screen planed apart to form a triangle, to [illegible] the life of her LPG cylinder.

"Sale can use makeshift stove when cooking sweet which takes a long time. But that's rare. Otherwise, we use it to boil white corn, using herbs that serves as my husband's drink," says and concoction for his kidney problem," Balcom says.

She has three children, two of whom are [illegible] near Filipino workers. The last time she bought an LPG cylinder was in the first week of July at P700.

"The LPG lasts one month and two weeks if we're not using wood scraps," says Balcom, who operates a small sari-sari store in ACM Subdivision. With the makeshift stove, her family [illegible] an LPG tank every three months.

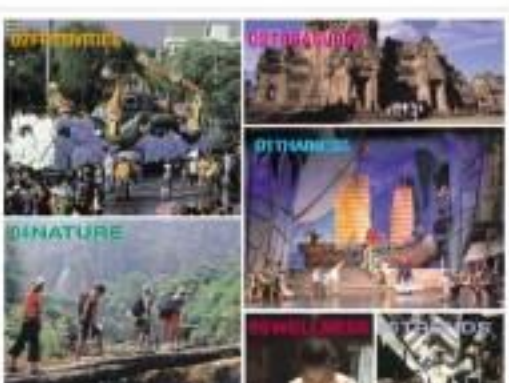
Way of life

Hailing the benefits of a wood-fired [illegible] Balcom says the rice and many cooked in it "[illegible] so good." In addition, "the leftovers don't spoiled easily."

Despite the high cost of LPG, Balcom says [illegible] difficult to give it up. "Nowadays, we use LPG [illegible] easy-to-cook foods like noodles. We use it to [illegible] warming to boil water for our coffee and to [illegible] We use it to broil fish and barbecue. Then we [illegible] it again to cook rice in the morning," she says.

Using both the wood-fired stove and the [illegible] "has become our way of life," she said. MNB and [illegible] Inquirer S. Alcantara

MAKESHIFT STOVE. Balcom cooks rice on a rice-husk-fueled stove in her kitchen as a hero in Hartdel, Bulacan.



Crisis paints rosy picture . . .

From page A1

street food, and leisurely barbecues, ating Libacsoft hardly figures in consumer surveys. But Villas' views, drug control ledgers seems to reflect a major shift among households and small food businesses that have finally given up on the costly liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Brisk sales

From sales of about 100 sacks daily two years ago, some 200 sacks—reflecting a 100-percent increase—now leave the stockpile before he calls it a day at the Mandaluyong market, Villas said.

He started out with only about 10 regular wholesale buyers, but now Villas deals with up to 20 everyday. These customers, who agree to Villas' 4-month-old rate of P170 per sack, either use the charcoal in their restaurants or catering services, or repack them into smaller plastic bags for retail.

Business steadily grew that Villas had to hire a child to help him open or quickly move the selling when the bulk buying peaks between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. Retail buyers—mostly housekeepers who pick up two to three small packs at P75 each—usually stream in later in the day.

Villas' workers—who include a young man nicknamed "Stalin" (Uzbekistan), a Mangyan from Mindoro who finds nothing wrong about doing his next-door neighbor—stay overnight to guard the stuff's average inventory of 500 sacks a day.

"LPG is now tough on the budget," Villas explained the brisk sales. The bonanza not him recently at Commonwealth, inside a white L-300 van packed next to his stall. The van serves as his office and comes equipped with a mobile telephone and a small desk-fan.

But while charcoal may be considered a cheaper alternative to LPG, the price of oling a current inspections in oil price hikes, Villas noted.

When Villas entered the business in December 2000, he was selling at P120 per sack. But unprecedented surges in the cost of transport fuel—lamented by his middlemen (suppliers) in the provinces—have since resulted in significant price ups.

Villas mainly gets his supply from six deliverers in Pangasinan and Oriental Mindoro. Vinjeron source their merchandise from local "agents," who in turn buy from farmers who actually make the charcoal mainly from cultivated ipil-ipil trees.

Edwin Bonita, a veteran tricycle driver from Pangasinan, said farmers in the province sell the newly processed ceiling to agents at around P100 per sack, while agents sell to Villas at an average P120 per sack.

When Bonita started out as a tricycle driver 10 years ago, he hired a small 125 truck carrying up to 60 sacks to make three deliveries a week to retailers in the Angeles-Dagupan area alone.

Today, more than 200 tricycles south the Angeles-Dagupan market, as Bonita had to expand. He now hires a six-wheel truck that can deliver up to 600 sacks per trip (often a week) to clients in Metro Manila, like Villas.

Villas recalled his costs swelling as P150 to P160 per sack in 2007, by the first quarter of 2008, it was P150 to P160 per sack. Today, he is getting selling at P170. Another price increase is expected as the Christmas season nears.

Still, there is no sign of demand slowing down, Villas says the sixth truck sailing in the Commonwealth market when he set up shop less than three years ago. Today there are 18.

One of Villas' competitors, Samson Bayal, said he used to run a cart but soon he found the farmers rich. "But I left it because earnings were small and slow in coming. Here (at his charcoal), the product moves fast and profit is good."

Big subdivisions, too

"I now have customers from big subdivisions [illegible] have switched to charcoal," said Bayal, who also [illegible] at 91 Pasay each. "One buyer said he would only [illegible] LPG for quick dishes, but for meals that require longer cooking, like rice and meat, it's charcoal."

The father of five said he had managed [illegible] send all his children to private schools, [illegible] to his chosen trade.

Where the business ears Bayal at his stall, [illegible] youngest was arrested in ancient [illegible] at work. A young girl [illegible] to the police station [illegible] picking up black smudges as she [illegible] shoot. The proud father didn't seem to [illegible]

3. Snap down the sawdust using another bottle.
4. Remove the sawdust blocking the hole.
5. Remove the bottle.
6. Place a piece of burning paper in the cylindrical hole and let the sawdust catch fire.
7. Put a receptacle (from an unused LPG stove) on the stove.
8. Put a pot on the stove

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OPINION

Local impact

THE IMPACT ON AYALA AVENUE OF LAST WEEK'S catastrophic nightmare on Wall Street still needs to be fully measured, but there is good reason to believe that the initial damage may be minimal. It is the offermath, however, especially the ambitious if ambiguous US government plan to drain the American financial sector of hundreds of billions of dollars in bad assets, that a developing economy like the Philippines should especially be wary about.

EDITORIAL

Both the Bangko Sentral and local banks invested in Lehman Brothers agree that the local banking sector sustained some collateral damage from last week's implosion of the storied investment bank. All told, seven Philippine banks have a total exposure of $368 million to Lehman—not exactly lone change, but altogether only 1 percent or so of the banks' total assets.

Despite the US government's $85-billion bailout of the American International Group, the future of the insurance giant remains shoddy. But the Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company, which is owned by AIG, remains financially robust "with the strongest balance sheet in the industry," the Insurance Commission said in a statement issued last Tuesday.

Reflexive in the financial sector (some forced by circumstance), such as the Asian financial crisis of 1997) have helped create bigger, stronger banks. "The country's banking industry implemented several reforms in the past years, including in the areas of risk management. Our banks have enough resources to absorb whatever shocks there [are] in the external environment," Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco said at a traditional mid-year briefing by the Arroyo administration's economic managers.

All these sober announcements, backed by fact, made President Macapagal-Arroyo's melodramatic flight of rhetoric, made during that same mid-year briefing, quite misleading and totally unnecessary. "The global economy may have knocked us down but we have gotten up off the mat and dusted ourselves off," the President said. (Who writes her speeches these days? North Cotabato Vice Governor and boxing impresario Manny Pacquiao?)

There is, in fact, no knockdown. And if we go by the record of her trained economic managers, there won't be. The local economy's losses may wobble (these boxing metaphors are all too easy to use), but the economy is in no great danger. Or is it? (That's what you get for misusing melodramatic imagery.)

The dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Kishore Mahbubani, a recent visitor to the Philippines, thinks last week's tumultuous events may turn out to be a cause for optimism. "Actually, the effect of the crisis in the United States could be the opposite [of an economic downturn]. The crisis could in fact lead to a change in the mindset of foreign investors in favor of emerging economies," Mahbubani, Singapore's former ambassador to the United Nations, said.

He may, of course, be right. But it is also possible that his outlook is referred by Singapore's position as a financial powerhouse.

In the first place, the crisis cannot be said to be limited to the United States alone. Many European banks have had to conduct severe write-offs because of their exposure to the American subprime woes. And while the United States now accounts for less than one-fifth of all Philippine exports, it remains the country's largest single export market. A deep recession in the United States may have a serious impact on the Philippines. As for all those subprime mortgages that a decade or more of lax standards and lack of financial discipline made possible, how many of those allow Filipino-Americans or Filipinos in America, who together comprise the biggest single source of remittances to the Philippines?

The worst thing that the "mother of all bailouts" could do is to reinforce the common belief that business cycles are no longer relevant, either because of the wonders of information technology or because of the resilience of the US government to intervene in markets.

A cautionary word from Robert Rubin, the successful treasury secretary under Bill Clinton, should help us plane our feet on the ground. "Business cycles remain, because the constants of human nature, such as greed, fear and complacency, have not changed." In other words, it's not markets alone that matter, but markets psychology too.

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A red tape that is 15 years long

TWO ITEMS IN THE SEPT. 14 ISSUE OF THE Inquirer caught my attention last week. The one a full-page advertisement on Page 5, an open letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, to it, presumably, the municipal officials of Bulacan, members of the clergy, businessmen and other leaders of the province called on the President to implement the Bulk Water Supply Project of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the provincial government of Bulacan to provide the first 10 municipalities of Bulacan with water from Angat Dam.

The second is a news story about Chairman Ramon Alikpala of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) telling the administrators of golf courses to stop using ground water for their golf courses and to consider using treatment instead. The water supplies of Metro Manila and other cities are already "stressed," he said, meaning they are already insufficient and are about to run out. Ground-water in parts of Metro Manila, he added, has been reduced to below sea level and salt water has begun to intrude into the aquifers.

It is indeed unfortunate that water coming from Angat in Bulacan is denied to people of Bulacan, which owns the water rights to the reservoir. The water flows through pipes from the reservoir to La Mesa Dam from where it is filtered and then distributed to the residents of Metro Manila. Residents of Bulacan suffer thirst while they see water from their backyard channeled to faraway Manila.

On the other hand, Angat is the only source of water for the national capital. And as we can see, it is not overflowing, but big gulf continues to send water from the ground to enter the pores and fissures. So the MWSS cannot implement the Bulacan Water Supply Project for Bulacan as it would drastically reduce the supply for the National Capital Region. If that project were pushed through, there probably would be a revolution in the MWSS. It's not worth the risk, I suppose.

But there is a win-win solution that would please both the Bulakenos and the Metro Manilenos. That is Metro Iran to reconsider one Bulacan's solution: Metro Manila withdraws.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

to of water just waiting to be tapped. I have discussed this so many times in my columns (the latest one only last Sept. 17) that I am beginning to sound like a broken record, but I will continue discussing it for as long as Metro Manila, Bulacan and environs go thirsty while millions of gallons of precious water from Wawa is allowed to flow out through the Marikina and Pasig rivers to Manila Bay where it is wasted.

If Wawa is harnessed, Bulacan's need for water, both for irrigation and for household use, will be satisfied. At the same time, Metro Manila doesn't have to suffer water shortages every summer. What's more, they (cities and the town) parts of Metro Manila will be spared the regular floods during the rainy season because it is the overflow from Wawa that floods down the rivers in flood flows.

Ironically, a private company has offered to harness Wawa at no cost to the government. Maynilad Water Service, the San Lorenzo Builders which now a partner in the construction of the Laguna Dam in Rizal Province, will shoulder all the expenses in putting a supply pipe from Wawa to La Mesa. This will augment the supply to Metro Manila consumers. This will also allow some of the water from Angat to be diverted for the use of Bulacan consumers without necessarily causing a shortage in the metropolis. Won't this make everybody happy?

San Lorenzo Builders has already applied to the NWRB, as early as 15 years ago, to harness Wawa. But as the NWRB dragged its feet on the application until now, Angat and a half decades later. In last Saturday's newspapers, President Macapagal-Arroyo launched, for the nth time, still another campaign to reduce red tape in her govern-

ment. Why doesn't she start with the NWRB? The red tape here, 15 years long, certainly merits a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

In economics full of mysteries, the biggest one is why the NWRB is not acting on San Lorenzo's application. It has not given any reason in spite of queries, from the citizens, from the applicants, or from other sources. Why, why, why? What is the reason? Don't they like the way Oscar Violago, the owner of San Lorenzo, parts his hair? Don't he have bad breath? Please tell us, Mr. Violago, and we are likely Arroyo to give him a new hairdo. And he can brush his teeth several times and use a stronger mouthwash. But please do something so that we Metro Manilans and Bulakenos don't have to be thirsty.

* * *

The financial hurricane that has ravaged the United States whose fringe winds are still inflicting the rest of the world, including Asia and the Philippines, is a great equalizer. The rich who have money in the banks and the stock market are quaking in their boots, for the money in their banks and stocks may not be able to weather the storm. The poor, on the other hand, couldn't care less. They have nothing to lose.

But even if you have money in the bank, if it is not more than P500,000, you don't have to worry. It is insured by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. The PDIC will pay you your deposit if your bank is flattened by the storm. And even if you have more than that, don't worry either. According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the exposure of Philippine banks to the Lehman Brothers, which went bankrupt, and the other financial institutions being buffeted by the storm, is less than one percent of their total assets.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: This joke is already making the rounds.

Manny Villar's slogan at his rookie: "Tingin ng mga."

Mercy Villar's slogan as senator: "Tingin at tapa."

Countdown

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE REAL ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIAL LAW wasn't yesterday, Sept. 21, it's tomorrow, Sept. 23. Martial law was a great lie in every respect, even at its recording of when it happened. Marcos did not declare martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, which was a Thursday; he declared it just midnight the following day at the wee hours of Saturday, Sept. 23. He made sure it would not be met by realtime protests by students and workers, Saturday being a holiday.

But he remained his order to sign. If he cannot be believed on the number, he can't be believed on the rest. Maybe it was. Martial law stretched on for 14 years, plunging the country in deepest darkness.

Can it happen again? That's a question that's gotten a little louder since former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz sounded the alarm bells on it. He warned that GMA might use the fighting in Mindanao as an excuse to declare emergency rule. "There is always the temptation. We should be vigilant. We should fight any attempt to impose any kind of emergency rule because that's the last thing we need. It will exacerbate the situation."

I myself have little doubt GMA will do every thing to stay in power after 2010, and have repeatedly warned so. The reasons fall into the categories of nature and attack. The attack is that while the plurality of her electorate against the people, being jailed for corruption like Erap in the course of her worries. Out of power, she will be vulnerable to all sorts of reprisals. The cause is the sheer need for power, a depth of craving we have not seen since Marcos. With most people, this hunger for power is a means to an end, the end being the many pleasures of life. With some, like Marcos and GMA, power is an end in itself: everything else being a means to it. They cannot exist without power; it's what defines them.

But how to keep it?

I myself do not think GMA will declare martial law of the Marcos kind. It's not that she does not do it, it's that she need not do it. Marcos declared martial law because he could not

insure declassified rule without it. GMA need not declare martial law because she has been able to insure declassified rule without it. She's insured rule defined as rule without the consent of the governed. Hell, declassified rule defined as rule that pisses off the governed. That's what we've had over the last four years.

Marcos declared martial law firstly because he could not do anything illegal or objectionable without being sued by the Senate presidency. An EO 626 prohibiting any public official from being summoned by the Senate without the president's consent, a calibrated preemptive response that scuttles calls without permission from a certain hour, or even stops those from coming place altogether, or a Proclamation 1017 that suspends civil rights and allows government to padlock offending newspapers: all these were unthinkable before martial law. Marcos could never pervert the all-powerful Congress from opposing his designs. But he could never stop editors and he could never curtail civil rights. There was a powerful civil liberties and activist movement at the time to stop him dead in his tracks. Marcos tried suspending the writ of habeas corpus after the Plaza Miranda bombing on Aug. 21, 1971, but promptly met with massive protest rallies and had to restore it almost as soon as he suspended it.

Today, GMA commits all sorts of illegal or unconstitutional acts routinely and simply leaves the citizens to contend with them—the latest being the supposed MOA with the MILF which is fundamentally insane. The citizens are reduced to fighting off the scratches through the courts, sometimes successfully, sometimes not. Even the successes are short-lived. For instance, the Supreme Court under Art Panganiban struggled (E) 464, CPR and 1017, but they're still there. (E) 464 has metamorphosed into "executive privilege." The wrapping of CPR has not prevented a child from stealing rubber, or preventing them from spilling over, such as the huge one at the height of the NBI hearings, and civil liberties are routinely corralled, as grimly shown by the killings. The point itself, the last bastion of democracy today, is under attack, because the people are not being instructed with impunity and those in Divine Mandia being actuated for libel. Lately the courts have been allowing the libel cases to be tried in bailiwicks of the plaintiffs again.

Marcos never got to the point where he could comfortably use the law to thwart the law: he would be declared martial law. After changing the Constitution, rewriting the courts to submission and/or mounting a rubber-stamp Batasan, he could finally pretty much anything he wanted, certain documents, quite apart from his legal limitations, would find the legal loophole for it. Even without martial law, GMA has gotten to the point where she is routinely able to use the law to thwart the law. She simply acts as though the Constitution does not exist, certain the citizens aren't be able to do anything about it, groans figured and cynical to boot, as I believe the courts, half of whom are for sale (a great understatement), find the legal loophole for it. Or failing that, approve it in its own guises.

Marcos declared martial law secondly because having become hugely unpopular during his second term he had to contend with Ninoy Aquino. By 1972, everyone was precisely trying how to unseat the next president of the Philippines.

There is no such opposition today.

(To be concluded)

Ancestral domain vs regalian doctrine

EIGHT YEARS AGO THE SUPREME COURT ruled incorrectly with the tone whether "ancestral domains" should be recognized as a legal category in Philippine jurisprudence. In the end, ancestral domain as a working legal category was upheld by a vote of 7-7.

Notably, however, the seven who voted against it said that it was void but voted for it are no longer in the Supreme Court. Thus debate about it today might be a different ballgame altogether.

More than the matter of Court composition, however, is the argument of the concept itself. Ancestral domain was difficult enough, as evidenced by the 7-7 vote of eight years ago; and the arguments just was made more difficult by three vested concepts of both constitutional law and international law now being confronted by anthropcentric legal concepts arising out of the jurisdictional claims of indigenous peoples even now are being labeled as the purification.

But let us begin from where it began.

The Dictionario Encyclopedico de Leyes de las Islas estated it all. The Spanish Government in these Islands will be the successor of the Moros, and all lands, territories, and possessions not heretofore ceded away by our royal predeces-

Sounding Board

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas S.J.

sors, or by us, so to our name, will pertaining to the royal crown and patrimony, it is our will that all lands which are held without proper and sufficient title from the Crown to us or to our royal predecessors, in order that after reserving before all what is or to our successors, authorities, and governors may seem necessary for public squares, ways, pastures, and commons in those places which are peopled, taking into consideration not only their present condition, but also their future and their probable increase, and after distributing to the natives what may be necessary for tillage and pasturage, confirming them in what they now have and giving them more if necessary, all the rest of said lands may remain free and unencumbered to us including the use and fruit.

Thus was asserted the regalian doctrine. The Spanish king claimed ownership of everything of value in the Indies as colonies thereby stripping natives of their ancestral rights to land. Philippine courts, all the way to the Supreme Court, even after the arrival of the Americans, followed the regalian doctrine.

Then came in 1900 Cushing vs. Insular Government, a decision penned by Justice Holmes, inventing a doctrine that had gone all the way to the Philippine Supreme Court. The court rejected the claim by a native tribal to ownership underlying colonial times. Justice Holmes wrote:

"It is true that Spain, in its earlier decrees, established the universal feudal theory that all lands were held from the Crown, and perhaps the general rule that all vacant lands belonged to the people not occupied or entitled to the treatment accorded to those in the same zone of civilization with themselves. It is true, also, that colonial theory, sovereignty is absolute, and that, as against foreign nations, the United States may assert, as Spain asserted, absolute power. But it does not follow that, as against the inhabitants of the Philippines, the United States asserts that Spain ever asserted, more than the mere power to grant. Sovereignty is a question of strength, and may vary in degree. How far a new sovereign shall insist upon the theoretical relation of the subjects to the head to the past, and how far it shall recognize the limitations of the rights of the former sovereign, are political questions."

When upon the new sovereign through Justice Holmes ruled in favor of Cariño and ordered the registration of the 148 hectares in Baguio Municipality in his name. Justice Holmes recognized that Cariño had "native title" to the land stating, "The Province of Benguet was inhabited by a tribe that the Solicitor-General, in his argument, characterized as a savage tribe that never was brought under the civil or military government of the Spanish Crown. It seems probable. If not certain, that the Spanish officials never went upon the land in question, or knew of the trig intention to which formerly the plaintiff" was entitled by the Spanish Laws, and which would have made his title beyond question good. Whatever may have been the technical position of Spain in dealing with the Indians, the courts of the United States, he had lost all rights and was a mere trespasser when the present government seized his land. The argument to that effect seems to amount to a denial of native titles through an important part of the behind of Cariño. If he had such title, it was good against the Spaniards would not have permitted and had not the power to enforce."

The Cariño decision is not breathtaking, however, the 1935 Constitution embodied the regalian doctrine. So did the 1973 Constitution and now the 1987. Can ancestral domain and regalian doctrine coexist together? (To be continued)

Telling it like it is

Kris-Crossing Mindanao

Nassefen Maulaja

This would define as being "in" the entire story, and just just being a storyteller, a chronicler, a detailed operations who so easily outside looking in.

The Al Jazeera Journal was the kind of story that I was expecting our own broadcast networks would produce. After all they have an enormous store of video clips of interviews and interviews in their files, even personal experiences of their own journalists who had experienced the hostage taking themselves not only the usual accuracy but accuracy in immediate terms, and more importantly in the visual aspect of truth in reportage.

But for all the good intentions, for all the accuracy with which journalists have told the story, the greater number of viewers, or one can assume, even the majority of the nation, knew only what Secretary Eduardo Ermita said, what Secretary Jesus Dureza said, what Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon said, what Cabinet spokesperson Noberto Gonzales, or how many MILF fighters were killed or injured in which battle according to the military how many civilians evacuated where and how miserable they are according to the social workers of the province.

All these ultimately follow the Australian 101 formula of the five Ws and one H, except that the one very important W the one question that like a persistent candle flame would illumine the unfolding parade from the Corazon Aquino years, whether led by all the queens and the figures, the body bags and the needle pricks.

In the questions now which Ms Arroyo et al. agonize over are: What do those "Moros" really want? Independence? Development? Livelihood projects? Government positions?

Nobody out the boat Ms Arroyo, is asking the "why" question. Why do they want to be set?

I remember answering in the early '90s—in 1992 or 1993—when the demand for the Moros for a ninth era to the Philippine flag was resuscitated. Hoh de Castro and Shiz Pangan, who were then the two members for the Mindanao desk at ABS-CBN, featured the story in their newscast, and with characteristic smiles on their faces casually went to town interviewing on the street reference of the idea, with, believe it or not, regarding what's the motivation in choosing the colors and the components of the flag design with a similar up.

Then another time, more recently, (Ehh,?) Sandra Aquinaldo, who is actually one of my favorite reporters, did a feature on the multiple banners of Moslem Mindanao flags now well in the hundreds, each one of the house having four wives, the women number supposedly allowed a Muslim.

But most of her story focused on how the artsy guys along with each other being under the same roof, and with the same number of wives, and having provided for each, how they were like close friends, etc., and all the while, she herself showing the "women," the underscore of humility that pervaded the person of "one big happy family."

The answer in her report of the history her report with facts that all the wives are legal, that to Islam there are no illegitimate children because of their multiple marriages, that all children are equally entitled to their father's inheritance, etc. There was a clip of clearly who was apparently an academic, who tried to explain the reasons for multiple marriages, but it was too short to clarify anything, while in-studio anchor-type was spoiling the whole thing with one of those "cute" questions with which with it's was scheduled for the night.

Why?

• • •

Comments to rsbaljo@YP.yahoo.com

The Filipino veteran as senior citizen

WHO ARE CONSIDERED VETERANS? FOR MANY FILIpinos particularly those belonging to the younger generations who grew up after World War II, the stereotyped image of the veterans is that of an old man with an extension cap covered with medals, perhaps walking with a cane. He is usually part of the audience during ceremonies marking the fall of Bataan (where veterans are born) or Bagumbayan, or the Bataan Death March.

Revelle

Ramon J. Farolan

Or of Corregidor Island, the site of the great victories of Filipino troops over Japanese forces. They represent a vanishing breed of heroes who served their country with distinction and honor during World War II. Many of them are in their eighties or even nineties awaiting final handing call from the almighty as the pre-departure jaws of their lives.

The law has broadened the term "veteran" beyond this popular image to include three categories of individuals:

1. Any person who rendered military service in this land, on or in honor of the Philippines during the revolution against Spain, the Philippine-American War and World War II including Filipino citizens who served with allied forces in Philippine territory.

2. A member of the Philippine Expeditionary Force sent to Korea (PEFTOK) and the Philippine Civic Action Group (PHILCAG) sent to Vietnam; and

3. Those who rendered military service in the armed forces of the Philippines (AFP) and had been honorably discharged or retired after at least 20 years' cumulative active service or are separated from the service because of injury or sickness incurred in the line of duty.

All in all, the country has about 300,000 veterans, older more than 70 years' active service, I belong to the third category, along with some 15,000 others who came into the service many years after World War II.

One of the benefits enjoyed by Filipino veterans under the law—Rep. Act No. 6948 known as "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits of Military Veterans," as amended by Rep. Act No. 7696—is what is known as the "old age pension." This is a P5,000 monthly stipend granted when the veteran reaches the age of 70 years. Upon his death, it is passed on to the surviving spouse and to minor children if the spouse remarries.

On the other hand, under Rep. Act No. 8237 otherwise known as the Senior Citizens (SC) Act of 2000, the "senior citizen" or "elderly" refers to any Filipino citizen at least 60 years old. Upon reaching 60 years, the elderly in our country start enjoying certain benefits, some of which is a 20 percent discount on medicines, food, hospitalization, drugs, transportation and laboratory fees, domestic travel and even funeral and burial services, among others.

Apparently, there is some inconsistency in the legal definitions of terms. The SC Act clarifies that reference to "elderly" or 60 years of age and above "shall be construed to mean" and is not considered "elderly" or "old," the amendment to the present veterans' law making 60 years as the benchmark for old age pensions would correct this inconsistency and provide earlier benefits for these generations.

• • •

The man who oversees veterans' affairs, among other important responsibilities, is a hotshot-decorated officer with a distinguished military career spanning 37 years. When Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, a member of PMA class 1970, retired from the Armed Forces in October 2005, he was serving as the deputy chief of staff of the AFP after heading Southern Command Headquarters at that time, the largest unified command of the AFP.

With a master's degree in business economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific, and a fellowship in National and International Security from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Carolina was immediately recruited as a presidential assistant with the rank of undersecretary, to oversee the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

Today, Carolina serves as undersecretary for Civil, Veterans and Reserve Affairs at the Department of National Defense and is concurrently officer in charge of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). In this post, he has contributed on a PVAO reform agenda: Focusing Reforms through Information Technology (IT) Solutions; Use of a Numerical Computation Skill Applied program employing three integrated disciplinary strategies: Prevention, Detection and Education, aimed at eliminating corruption in the agency.

So far his efforts have paid off:

• This year alone, an average of 70 percent of old age pension applications processed within 30 days while 92 percent of burial assistance applications are processed within 10 days. The latter used to be six months for old age pensions and 90 days for burial assistance.

• More than 97 percent of pensions are now remitted directly to the pensioners' bank accounts instead of through the payroll system which in the past resulted in all kinds of anomalies.

• A total of 376 employees have received training in anti-corruption measures, public accountability and ethics and values building.

• Carolina has become the scourge of Bataan as the agency with the most administrative cases completed against erring employees, with cases cleared in the Office of the Ombudsman.

• Veterans have greater access to PVAO's services and information with the establishment of the Veterans Service and Assistance Center and the Office of Public and Legislative Affairs. A new publication, "Veterans Mo at Kabataan mate" program. To send a message to PVAO, one has only to type the keyword PVAO followed by the message, and send this to 2920. The email address of PVAO is support@pvao.mil.ph.

• Public dues are still complaints from veterans' end, this has dropped significantly from previous years.

Among other issues facing PVAO is the status of Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) in Quezon City. Lately the VMMC has been the center of controversy with some groups proposing the transfer of the hospital out of Quezon City. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro has ruled this out, citing among other things the huge investment of the present location. While he expressed willingness to relocate the present land area of the Center—the VMMC covers almost 55 hectares—Teodoro is insisting for a better-equipped facility as well as a fair share in the development proceeds.

In line with this philosophy, Undersecretary Carolina has outlined the legislative mandating the use of proceeds from the development of government properties for veterans for the payment of their benefits. He has also hailed for an increase in the old age pension of veterans by P1,000 annually until it reaches P10,000.

Married to Socorro Dominguez, Carolina has two girls and two boys. His eldest son, Lt. Col. Ernesto G. Carolina Jr., is a member of PMA class of 2000, assigned with the 21st Infantry Battalion in the Cotabato Valley in Mindanao, following in the footsteps of his father.

A convenient confusion

IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT, WITHIN A RELATIVELY short period of time, people have begun to reset themselves away from Sept. 21 as the date for recalling martial law. While there remains another Marcos—and he is the Sept. 22, when President Ferdinand E. Marcos actually signed Proclamation 1081, on Sept. 23, when the nation awoke to find media shut down and dissidents placed under arrest—one thing is sure. Martial law only began on Sept. 21, 1972 by legal fiction. Accepting it as the convenient fiction it is reinforces the psychic motion in the first place.

To be sure, besides the appropriate date for commemorating martial law—besides loyally sticking to the numerological significance of Sept. 21—there is the matter of the "Spirit of EDSA." Originality and tragedy of it actually dawning on everyone on Sept. 21, the date I advocate for commemoration—the Marcos and martial law years have many hues each that still need to be tied up. Ninoy's assassination, the snap election, people power and mass enthusiasm, as Marcos himself argued?

August 21, 1971, he wrote rebuttal: "Everybody is saying how costly the peaceful revolution was accomplished. John Stuart told Imelda "He did not expect it to be so costly short." And rightly—there was no revolution. It was accomplished by artists which hadn't already been answered to be seen stated: "Will it be said by history that the communist threat was just a legal justification for a legal out-of-law?" To which he loyally told him: "I am convinced that it will be said by history that it was a constitutional revolution—and that it was necessary to reform society—to correct a sick society into the New Society."

Apropos of the passing of Adrian Cristobal, I'd always wanted to ask him about the phrase. Was it his or was the belief that there could be a "New Society," and that it required a revolutionary break with the evolution of Philippine democracy and government up to that point. This was not, of course, the belief of the Filipino people or even that of the intellectuals who gravitated to Marcos. If not the flowering of a seed implanted in the back at the end of World War II, when those who rebelled-

The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

cooted with the Japanese justified their actions by citing the same principle that the Commonwealth and the Philippine Republic that cited them for treason. Understanding Marcos as a thinker and a strategist requires examining the political thought that justified the republic established under the martial law regime. Marcos's "Notes on the New Society of the Philippines" and Jose Conrado Benitez's "Philosophy of the New Society" are key documents in this regard.

Benitez, a young Filipinos such as those trying to edit entries in the free online encyclopedia, Wikipedia, basically defines what, precisely, the period from Sept. 21 (or 22, or 23), 1972 to June 30, 1981, should be called. "Martial law" is "neutral and descriptive," the first being applicable to governments until the foundation of the Malolos Republic (there say it should be the New Society). Rather, what Marcos himself called it), and still the latter to that which was established in 1899 and called arguments based on "technical legalism," since that the "fourth Republic" was born with the "ratification" of the 1973 Constitution, while by listing how the powers of the day did not participate in the creation of the republic until Marcos's inauguration in 1981. And so, the confusion continues: including the recognition, by the Office of the Vice President of the Philippines, abolished under Marcos, of both Marcos and Tito as the first vice presidents of the First Republic—one that, of course, is not the Malolos Republic (that was Mabini), which doesn't have a vice presidency, and if Tito bore the title because of the Tejeros Convention, doesn't that mean Tejeros was actually our "First Republic"? This is what happens when our official historians throw common sense out the window in order to make sure that Marcos is given no an, briefly, vice president; and so, Tito never happened, or was a mulish illegitimate child.

So many questions, but no clue that it would do well to recall what Marcos himself wrote for posterity in his diary.

• • •

[GO] our visit The Philippine Diary Project on line at: http://philippinediaryproject.wordpress.com/ in are Marcos' diary entries from 1971 to 1972. If you are a student or a scholar, or with one on your hands, and would like any help with this recording required for the project, drop me a line at mlquezon@gmail.com

The passion of Manong Pablito

IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH 101 much bad news about our country and countrymen, let me share with you my unforgettable trip to Corregidor last Sept. 6.

My friends treated me to this trip for my 90th birthday. I did not think it would be anything special. But it was.

The ticketing office near the Cultural Center of the Philippines, visible over luxurious, was decent and clean enough. The orientation we boarded was commodious, the staff warm and accommodating. The trip was uneventful except for nice views of the Manila skyline and the mountains of Bataan and Cavite. I had a headache; fortunately, a member of the staff was kind enough to give me a painkiller.

My elderly tour guide named Pablito Martinez spoke just a few minutes before we docked in Corregidor. He began cutting off some information about the island. I really did not pay much attention to what he had to say. I had suspected that he would sing Imelda's "My Way." My indifference, however, turned to surprise. He was quite flawless English (even with a slight twang) and he certainly knew what he was talking about, from weapons to ships to historical dates and events. My friends and I decided to join his tour late—Pin. 6.

It turned out to be a wise decision.

As a lover of history, I thought I knew much about World War II in the Pacific, but Martinez knew even more. Not only was he an expert on blow-by-blow data and on the guns and cannons of Corregidor, he was also very professional about his work. He mingled with us (local and foreign tourists), had a terrific sense of humor and was a stickler for punctuality. In fact, he seemed to be having a great time doing his work, which he did with an uncommon passion.

I found out that Martinez has been working as a tour guide for more than 30 years, and has his own advocacy for the recognition of 20 Filipino nurses whose extraordinary courage was never recognized even by our own government. They resisted to the injured and dying in Bataan and Corregidor, but our own people chose to remember only the services of American nurses whose names are now inscribed in a memorial in Corregidor.

Corregidor is a place worth visiting—the views are really fantastic, its distance and natural harvests will cast a mystical spell on the patriotic Filipino. Sports-minded people can bike or hike around the island, as romp out or swim in its blue waters. This cost even decent to your heart's content to one of the lucky during a snowy night to the company of friends.

But if you want to know Corregidor and Bataan and your country's history better, and love your country more, I advise you to look for Melito Martinez, an Ilocano from Ilocos, Isabela, a patriotic Filipino who serves his country with his silent work.

Manong Pablito, maraming salamat po.

—ANDRES SANTOS,
Room 1219, North Wing,
Bureau of Internal Revenue,
Concordia cor Bilis,
Quezon City

GMA's holiday economics hit

I SEE NO VALID REASON TO move the observance of the birth and death anniversaries of our national heroes to other dates. Although the practice, called "holiday economics," gives workers longer vacations, it diminishes the significance of their heroism in the minds of our young and is harmful to business, aside from causing inconvenience to a lot of people.

On Aug. 18, 2008, all commercial banks were closed and most of the machines were off-line. Many people didn't know that the non-holiday commemoration of the 25th death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., which was Aug. 21, the day he was assassinated at the Manila International Airport, had been advanced to give way to a holiday economics.

Businessmen are complaining about the so-called holiday economics espoused by President Macapagal-Arroyo because it devalues their business activity.

—GODFREDO D. PITTE JR.,
#600 Sant, Camalaniaa Norte

Gambling? Time for Favila to resign

THE UNPRECEDENTED, SEEMingly irremediable inflationary trends that everybody experiences today may have us robbed Trade Secretary Peter Favila of his sense of fiscal responsibility. We refuse that he now wants to make this country a gambling capital like Malaysia, Singapore and Las Vegas. (Sayonara, 9/5/08) That is the most tragic thing that can happen to the most predominantly Roman Catholic country in the Far East.

Favila is seriously not native to his recognize that, since time immemorial, gambling and industry have been each formidable and irreducibly exclusive contradictions that, like oil and water, can never mix. In 1809, the then-incumbent regent and economist Thomas de Mier painted to this contradiction in "The Theory of the Laissez Class." He said that gambling encourages a belief in luck rather than the more desirable commitment to rational planning and rigorous industry.

Later writers have asserted that gambling reaches its participants to base birth in the concepts of "something for nothing" and "making a killing" by taking high risks, thus undermining the capacity of a people to work hard and to save. One very own national hero, Jose Rizal, had dedicated a chapter on establishing in his novel "El Filibusterismo" and of the incensed that age-old vice among Filipinos...even though allowed by the Spanish government every Sunday—as he more despicable than the smoking of opium by the Chinese.

Favila appalled would threat surely be to know that not only establishing but all sorts of gambling, legitimate or not, that have since been invented by modern man are now being encouraged by the government to be played exclusively under everybody's nose—not weekly but several times daily.

As things are, to raise down the spiraling of prices in the marketplace is Favila's most crucial mandate. Favila must resign immediately. Her worsening culture of gambling in our midst and times. If he finds himself accused to that mandate, he should resign.

—RUDY L. GOROSPE,
Golden Country Homes,
Alangilan, Batangas City

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Philpost wasn't at fault

THIS IS IN REPLY TO JOSEFINE CARLOS AND Annette Yuga-an's letter-complaint regarding lost mail. (Inquirer, 9/5/08)

Upon reading the complaint, our office acted right away to determine the circumstances of how, when and where the letter and the parcel got lost.

It was not too difficult to trace what happened to the parcel. Documents confirm that our contract mail courier, Asian Transport Link International, did in fact deliver to Australia (via Kuala Shipping Voyage "Leeds Chenang V0004") the mail bag containing the Yuga-an parcel and the parcels of several other senders (Liquidation flag #9/12). The Proof of Delivery (POD) papers show that the parcel was received by Australia Post's freight handler freight Logistics Australia PTY, and subsequently picked up by Australia Post on May 23, 2008 from the freight handler. It was after Australia Post received the bags and parcels from their freight handlers that the dispatch bag containing the Yuga-an's parcel got lost.

Consequently, Australia Post, in a communication sent by Mellon Johnson to Australia Post's manager, owned up to the loss and accepted total liability for the loss of the shipment. It also authorized the indemnification of the Yuga-ans and others for the loss of their parcels.

The Yuga-ans and the others, namely, Ernesto Mina of San Fernando, La Union, Bing Gonzales of Pasay City and Jaymee Tolentino of Naga City have all received their reimbursement (non-existence with details 27 of the Universal Postal Union Convention, which governs the liability of post offices) and the matter may be put to rest (mail). The Yuga-ans have acknowledged receipt by way of an e-mailed note of thanks.

Let me point out that the incidence of business in the Philpost system has significantly diminished (perhaps due to the relentless efforts) we are running to remove the few scallawags from the ranks of our 11,000 dedicated employees doing a yeoman's job in more than 2,600 locations all over the country many of which are very remote). The few cases that happen and especially those that are published or aired in media point to unfair portrayals of the Philpost family and embarrass us all. We would like to assure our people and ask them to understand that we do not want to lose any mail.

Nevertheless, this only stocks our resolve to work hand-in-hand to change the public's misconception of our institution. Despite the odds, this day, still delivers more than a million letters and parcels a day at the cheapest price, no matter how remote the destination.

—HECTOR S.B. VILLANUEVA,
postmaster general and CEO,
Philippine Postal Corporation

Remembering Tanco

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS A government agency whose principal mandate is to provide food for the Filipino and sufficiency, if any, to other countries to help cushion food shortages elsewhere in the world. Every year billions and billions of pesos are allocated and spent for this objective, and yet we now have a shortage of no man-made. Pirates of the sea share supply of many (wheat, pork, beef) and regularly embarrass us down by the ever-rising prices of these commodities. The rest of food in this country is, percentage wise, at its highest vis-à-vis the people's income.

Government corruption and mismanagement seem to be the most logical explanation to why we have come to this pass: Fertilizer scam, swine scam, Ohh Committee Massgrazing Aid scam, farm to market road scam, irrigation scam, scam there, scam here, no section left of scam-everywhere.

I remember the late Agriculture Minister Arturo Tanco's Masagana 99 program which produced enough rice for us and more for export. His cattle and swine dispersal program was a success. We never knew or heard of any corruption during his watch. He died in office, one of the longest serving Cabinet members, living in a modest house in Mandaluyong. His 20-hectare farm in Lipa City, Batangas, inherited from his mother, was foreclosed by a bank.

Nowadays, we don't have people in government like Arturo Tanco.

—FRANCISCO L. LEDO,
former mayor, Tanauan, Batangas,
275 F. Gonzales St., Sampaloc City

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P1,548	P1,348	Davao to Iloilo or Zamboanga / Cebu to Zamboanga
P1,988	P1,788	Manila to Puerto Princesa / Cebu to Clark or Puerto Princesa
P2,388	P2,188	Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro or Davao
P2,588	P2,388	Manila to Dumaguete, Zamboanga, General Santos or Zamboanga

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Across the NATION

'Nina' brings floods to Romblon town

By Tarra Quismundo

STILL REELING FROM DISASTERS ON SHORE AND AT sea exactly three months ago, the once sleepy town of San Fernando, Romblon, was again immersed in tragedy when heavy rains flooded the town center and nearby villages Saturday night.

A relentless downpour brought by Typhoon "Nina" (dipgoon) flash floods in three barangays in the Visayan island town. Mayor Nanette Tansingco said by phone Sunday that almost 5,000 residents were affected.

The flooding struck as rescuers braved the driving operations on the northern MV Princess of the Stars, still wreaking havoc on the island's shores with loads of rock, cargo and hundreds of unretrieved bodies.

Villagers in worst-hit areas had to be evacuated to higher ground, said the mayor, but there has yet to be an account of residents displaced.

A fifteen-year-old boy died in Barangay Poblacion, Tansingco said, while another was missing. Residents said water suddenly rushed into town from Mt. Dahilig-Guiring, filling San Fernando's many rivers until they overflowed between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. It had been raining for hours, but none of the long-time villagers expected floods to reach the streets and their homes.

Mudslides and debris of uprooted trees, floodwaters crashed into the villages of Poblacion, Pili and Panangquilan, destroying the vital Pili and Dumpingtalan bridges and river dikes and damaging homes and stalls at the town's market.

The flooding spurred Bato Coldwaterfalls, the shut-wide village closest to the shipwreck. But with the bridges down, access from the town center to the site of the wreck has been cut off, the residents said.

Most sources of potable water have been destroyed.

"The floodwaters rose [more than] 10 feet and already cleared our mother mall after it was flooded. Just minutes later, the water rose again. It took just 10 minutes for the flood to be knee-deep," said Bolalin.

Floodwaters turned the town center into a sea, said the San Fernando native.

"Luckily, we don't have a high tide yet. It was raining so hard last night that I screamed for it to stop. Now with the bridge gone, the town center is cut off from the other barangays," he said.

In Virac, Catanduanes, heavy equipment was deployed in clear major roads blocked by at least four landslides, especially in the towns of Bagamanoc, Baras and Gigmoto.

Some cities battered the province since Saturday afternoon as Nina gained strength and public storm Signal No. 2 remained raised as of Sunday noon.

In Legaspi City, civil defense officials reported that 1,733 passengers have been stranded in the Bicol ports of Pasacao, Tabaco, Virac, Pilar, Matnog, Bicondoan and Bulan as of Sunday afternoon. Perseus Quimora, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Former political prisoners recount torture in jail

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—HE WAS scarred, beaten with a big plastic bottle of mineral water, kicked on his stomach and ate organ.

His face was covered with a plastic bag making him lose consciousness and urinate in his pants.

His interrogators repeatedly threatened to kill, burn, or bury Pastor Berlin Guerrero, whom they also called "Pastor Impostor."

The torture took place last year, when Guerrero was arrested in Laguna in his allegations of rebellion. Guerrero was freed last week after the appellate court ordered his release from police custody.

He recounted these in a symposium here on Thursday that commemorated the martial law anniversary. Tereso Casingasa, former vice president, also attended the forum organized by the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties-Southern Tagalog (MOCCI-AT).

Also in attendance, one of the "Tagaytay 5," who was also a political prisoner during martial law, said the Marcos and Arroyo administrations both used the Armed Forces and the police to suppress growing public discontent.

The difference between the Marcos and Arroyo regimes, he said, is that the latter has become worse.

PASTOR Berlin Guerrero of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines shares his torture experiences at a symposium in Los Baños, Laguna.

Guerrero said that the only difference is that Marcos was elected while Arroyo's presidency remained questionable.

Guerrero would his ordeals in the hands of his police captors.

He said he was surprised when the interrogator asked him the question he was once asked 24 years ago.

"What is the hell is a UP graduate doing in the boondocks?" was the question asked before he was jailed two years ago and 24 years ago.

He was charged with violation of the Anti-Subversion Law and was detained for two years from October 1982 to July 1984 in Camp Nakar, Quezon City.

He said they used urea, the same "persuasion" even without hands and often as more suspicion.

Guerrero was placed under the custody of his lawyer Emilio Capulong while awaiting for the final resolution of the Court of Appeals.

"Now come serving God and the people in a prison?" he asked.

During the symposium, short films were shown with scenes reenacting the alleged abduction, torture, and illegal detention of the "Tagaytay 5."

"Sir Rico 'Tuba'" reminisced the group's interrogator whom Ariel Pilapil was subjected to psychological torture. Alike Catherine Collojo, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Typhoon heads for North Luzon

WEEK SECTIONS OF LUZON AND THE Visayas were expected to experience heavy rains as Typhoon "Nina" (International name Hagupit) headed for northern Luzon, according to the weather bureau.

At 10 a.m. yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration spotted the weather system hovering 400 kilometers northeast of Virac, Catanduanes, with maximum sustained winds of 120 kph near the center and gustiness of 150 kph.

Moving west-northwest at 10 kph, Nina was expected to be at 180 km east of Aparri, Cagayan, this morning and 225 km northnortheast of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte, by tomorrow morning. The eye of the typhoon is expected to be in Ilocos Norte Wednesday.

Public storm Signal No. 1 was hoisted over Catanduanes while Signal No. 2 was raised in Cagayan, Isabela, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, including Polillo Island, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Albay.

Southern Luzon, Mimaropa and Metro Manila will have rain due to the southwest monsoon. Jocelyn R. Uy

NEWSBRIEFS

BAGUIO CITY

Missing militant

A MEMBER of the militant group Cordillera Peoples Alliance was reported missing here since Sept. 11, shortly after family members reported him being taken by a van for the past few days.

James Abiko was last seen leaving his home at 7 a.m. for La Trinidad town in Benguet, said Beverly Longid, alliance chair.

Bakio is about 5 feet and 5 inches tall, and was carrying a yellow back pack and a red travelling bag when he left his house at Fairview, Pottotoban.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

March for peace

POLICE demanded Catholic nuns and students from fighting candles along Session Road in honor the victims of martial law. The nuns celebrated a "Mass for Peace" on Saturday evening at the Baguio Cathedral. The eve of the day, the late Christopher Peralta and Warren declared martial law 37 years ago.

The nuns then led students and militants down the cathedral stairs toward Session Road. Police later shooed the activists away.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

NAGAYE

Village chief slain

SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels shot dead a village chief in Magdalo town Friday evening, said Capt. Rizalinjo Bangayan, civil military operations officer of the 801st Infantry Battalion on Saturday morning.

He said Barangay Vgot, 52, of Barangay Mahabang Bayhay, San Pascual town, was shot to death in different parts of the body by about 20 rebels.

After the incident, the suspects also fired upon a civilian, who was instantly killed, he added.

Roy Cerrado, Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY

Rebels burn Globe cell site

SUSPECTED New People's Army rebels allegedly torched Globe Telecommunications cellsite in Lucban town, 45 kilometers south of Manila, and damaged its generator set Saturday, police said.

The arsonists broke into the cellsite compound, the police said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Rights groups put up marker for 2 missing activists

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILitant groups here will today erect a marker at the site where two activists were abducted last year as part of activities marking the 36th anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

Relatives, friends and colleagues of Ma. Lulan Pena-Dorolzado and Hilo Ando will converge at the Molo District plaza this morning before proceeding to Barangay Cabatuanan in Oton town, 7 km south of here, where they will attend the unveiling.

In the afternoon, protesters led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will march in the city's main streets before holding a protest rally at the Iloilo provincial capitol grounds.

The marker consists of billboard-type structure with the names of Dorolzado and Ando and the date they were abducted.

"The marker is a symbol that forced disappearance, abductions, killings of activists that we thought went away with martial law remains and has even worsened," said Florante Pelias, spokesperson of the Samahan ng Mga Pamilyang Lubos na Dinurusta at para sa Katarungan (Sidlak), a group of former political detainees imprisoned mostly during the Marcos rule.

"We must not stop fighting and condemning these inhumane acts as long as they persist," said Pelias.

The two activists remained missing since April 13, 2007, after heavily armed men forcibly took them after they watched the victims' rehabs. Their vehicle was found burned in a sugarcane field in Antique town, 50 km from where they were snatched.

Their abduction also shed and emotionally wounded human rights worker Joe Ely Gonzalvo.

Dominado, a political detainee during the Marcos dictatorship, was the spokesperson in Panay of Iloilo while Ando was the Bayan-Panay chair when they were abducted.

The victims' families and fellow activists have accused government agents as the ones responsible for the abductions but police and military officials have repeatedly denied these.

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Devotees seek healing from Bicol patroness

NAGA CITY—ON THE GRASSY grounds of the Naga Cathedral while waiting for the Virgin of Peñafrancia to emerge for the fluvial procession in the Naga River on Saturday afternoon, Mauro Magdalena, 66, retraces the steps he has been taking for the past 50 years as a devotee of the patroness of Bicol.

His devotion to the Virgin, called "true" by the Bicolanos, started after he was healed from an unknown illness that almost shrunk his heart, he says.

After his recovery, Magdalena said he dreamed that the Virgin asked him to offer his strength and youth by taking her weight upon his shoulders during the procession held in her honor. The wandering festival is celebrated on the third week of September.

Since then, Magdalena has become one of the "cuyadores" of his during the "Traslacion," the first day of the festival where the Virgin is brought out of her home shrine in the Basilica to the Metropolitan Cathedral in Naga for novenas and Masses, and on the last day during the fluvial procession that marks her return to the shrine.

"I ask her to allow me to live until my 70th birthday so I could see my grandchildren's children and to keep my family safe and healthy," he says.

Making from his house in Barangay Concepcion to the basilica or cathedral, wherever his Patroness may be, Magdalena says that "with faith, you can do anything."

It is a belief shared by Pilar Sol who, at 60, has been coming all the way from Barangay Ave the past two years to seek healing for her 18-year-old grandson, Jonico de Torres, a hydrocephalic. Sol says the devotion still continue in the years to come as "she won't disappoint me."

It was two years ago when Sol was told that a miraculous Virgin in Naga City could heal her grandson. "For the past two years, we've been visiting the Ina[illegible] to ask her to heal this grandson of mine."

She said her grandson was born with a soft head that swelled. "We were up during the entire year to pay for our fare and food. Sometimes, if we have enough to buy candles and fare from Barangay, we still [illegible]."

Sally Delago, 53, from Quezon province, said, "Selling fans is my own devotion to Ina. Even though I won't sell any, even though it's tiring, it's okay as long as my devotion to Ina is fulfilled."

At P10 per fan, Delago admits that her profit is never enough to support her family's needs. "But, that is what I'm here for. I'm asking Her to alleviate us from poverty."

Mona Barrameda, CentralDaily

DEVOTEES of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia on Thursday parade the streets of Naga City in a riot of colors.

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MOTORIST'S outbreath cross the unstable Ambuwang bridge in Bontoc, Mt. Province. Metal supports under the bridge have been stolen, reducing its loading capacity from 15 tons to 10 tons.

Thieves take half of Bontoc bridge

By Dino Kristian Dooguy
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE—THE ROADS leading to this capital town have long been plagued with environmental and manmade hazards.

For decades, residents have been used to massive landslides and undersized railings and other road safety equipment. But never did they expect to see half of a bridge missing.

Since July 20 steel away braces of the Ambuwang (Sadsa) Bridge in Sitio Ambuwang here have been missing, prompting the Department of Public Works and Highways to close one lane of the bridge.

"The braces prevent the bridge from swinging violently," Leonardo Lumiday of the department in Mt. Province said in a phone interview.

The 103-meter bridge can handle 15 tons. But with the braces missing, it can now handle only 10 tons.

The department has put up signboards on the bridge advising motorists to pass one at a time.

Tricycles and heavy trucks carrying loads of cargo pass through the Ambuwang Bridge.

"We would have no alternate road to pass through if the bridge loops down. The only way to bypass the bridge is to use the river under it," Bhaya Franklin Odsey said.

On July 17, government engineers found the steel braces missing in a routine road check after Typhoon "Fengshen" hit southern Luzon.

Chief Insp. Julio Lizardo, Bontoc police chief, said three suspects were arrested on July 15, days before the department reported the incident.

The suspects were intercepted at a police checkpoint in Bagabag, Sitio Tinoyo. They were identified as Dexter Palangpo, 34; Joseph Bantoa, 35; and Leodegario Cosanas, 24, all of Barangay Alab, Bontoc.

Police flagged down their flatbed pickup and found metal bars cut into 21-piece inside.

Lizardo said the Bagabag police released the suspects because no case was filed against them.

The police, however, were able to retrieve the stolen bridge parts.

On Sept. 9, the department filed theft charges against Palangpo, Bantoa and Cosanas with the provincial prosecutor's office.

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On 12 September 2008, G. Assanmal & Co. published notice to the public in the issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer of even date, claiming that the mark "ORNET" is its duly registered trademark for tires under Class 12 with the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). This is an outright lie. The mark "ORNET" is not the duly registered trademark of G. Assanmal & Co.

The mark "ORNET" is owned worldwide by Apollo International Limited, a company duly registered and organized under the laws of India and engaged in the business of, among others, selling and distributing automobile tires using the "ORNET" trademark.

Apollo International Limited does business in the Philippines through its authorized agent, CV Prima Bakti, Jakarta, Indonesia. G. Assanmal & Co. was terminated as distributor of Apollo International Limited in early 2006, and shortly thereafter, it, in bad faith, fraudulently filed with the IPO a trademark application for the "ORNET" trademark, misrepresenting itself as a partner of Apollo International Limited and first user of the "ORNET" trademark in the Philippines. The IPO has yet to decide with finality the opposing claims of the parties.

Meanwhile, the general public is warned about G. Assanmal & Co.'s aforementioned misrepresentation and is hereby warned to deal only with the authorized agent of Apollo International Limited for Ornet tires, CV Prima Bakti, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Kapunan Lotilla Flores Garcia & Castillo Law Offices
Counsel for Apollo International Limited

More fighting seen after Ramadan

By Jodbey Mateos
Inquirer Mindanao
and Nikko Dizon in Manila

KORONADAL CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said yesterday it supported more fighting when the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan ends if the military continues attacking independent rebel groups in Mindanao.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, told the Inquirer by phone that religious leaders in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur in exclusion so forcefully called on the Bangsamoro people to unite and engage in jihad—holy war—against enemies of Islam.

Iqbal said MILF chair Ebrahim Murad had also stated that if the military operation did not stop, more fighting was expected in the future.

Hostilities erupted in Mindanao on Aug. 18 following the elected signing of a preliminary accord between the government and the MILF on an expanded Bangsamoro homeland.

"The possible declaration of Jihad by religious leaders is part of their personal views. In the MILF we have been launching Jihad since we started our organization but we are now negotiating with the government," Iqbal said.

"Right now, the military operations in Central Mindanao and Lanao areas continue. If they still not stop, we expect fighting will erupt again after Ramadan," he said.

The Ramadan is expected to end on Sept. 30, when the new moon is sighted.

The call for unity and Jihad among Muslims came one after soldiers attacked MILF rebels in Calanogas, Lanao del Sur, while during their Eid (breaking of fast) on Thursday.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has mounted an operation against MILF commanders Ameril Ombra Kato and Abdulla Macapaar, also known as Bravo. The two are facing multiple criminal charges for allegedly leading rebel attacks on civilian communities in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte last month.

The government has doubled the reward for information leading to the capture of Kato and Bravo from P5 million each to P10 million. Another P5 million has been put up for the capture of another MILF commander, Abenis Solaiyman Pendatun.

"We still are surrender them because we have an agreement with government to turn them over," Iqbal said.

Also yesterday, a Moro rebel was killed during a 19-minute encounter in Maimapan town in Lanao del Norte, said Col. Dionisio de Leon, commander of the 104th Infantry Brigade. There were no reported casualties on the government side.

De Leon said the soldiers were pursuing a 45-strong MILF group believed to be under Macapaar that was expelled following its attack Friday on a encampment of the National Transmission Corp. where the fire fight occurred.

Shotguns for PNP recruits, not civilians, says PNP

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) is shelving temporarily the issuance of shotguns to civilian volunteers or members of its police auxiliary units in Mindanao. It had insisted over 1,000 top police recruits to the war-torn area.

Director General Avelino Razon said the 1,000 shotguns meant for members of auxiliary units would be given to the police recruits.

He said the new recruits were being sent to the war zone for "on-the-job training" in guard arms from possible attacks by the communist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Al-Qaeda-linked MILF rebels are known to be armed with high-powered automatic weapons.

"It's a top-gap measure while the candidates for our auxiliary units are being processed," Razon explained.

The deployment of the shotgun and the police recruits, he said, would be done initially by the PNP commandos in the area.

Felipe Verzosa, assistant secretary for public affairs of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said the shotguns would be given to the police "so they can be put to use."

Two weeks ago, the PNP announced it was organizing civilian volunteers organizations or police auxiliary units after MILF fighters laccerated armies in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte last month.

Renewed fighting came after a peace agreement between the government and the rebels collapsed.

The civilian volunteers will be screened and trained before they are issued shotguns, police officials had said.

Razon also said earlier the PNP was purchasing 12,000 more shotguns for the auxiliary forces.

Police and military officers expect clashes to escalate with the coming end of the Muslim Ramadan holiday.

The government is currently hunting down MILF commanders Dodoh Kato and Abdulla Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, both wanted for leading the recent attacks on communities in North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur.

The government is offering a P10-million reward each for information leading to their capture.

500,000 evacuees need food aid

From page A1

a previous armed to oversee rehabilitation once peace comes to Mindanao, is now shifting to "disaster management."

"I think the needs are going up," said Stephen L. Anderson, country representative of the World Food Program (WFP), who visited last week people huddled in makeshift camps in unsuitable areas on the edge of the rain-swollen Rio Grande de Mindanao, an hour's drive from Cotabato City.

The UN food agency based in Rome has been assisting more than 400,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) since a deal to its expanded Bangsamoro homeland—currently hammered out in Kuala Lumpur under Malaysian auspices to resolve a decades-old civil strife—stranded and ravaged MILF communities remained a month ago.

"Now it's going to be above 500,000," Anderson said, referring to the number of IDPs to greatly needing assistance.

"There has been an optimism that Ramadan would be a kind of 'cooling off' period and allow the peace process to get back on track. But it doesn't seem to [be] happening and the people I've spoken to here are not very optimistic," he said.

Anderson said he saw this himself people still arriving during his visit on Wednesday in Datu Piang.

Appalling camp conditions

In one site alone, over 1,000 families—roughly 5,000 people composed mainly of women and children—had turned plastic sheets provided by the government-supervised International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) into tents in the town square and surrounding streets in appalling conditions.

Makeshift shelters stood even in the dirty and mud that got churned up by passing cars. There were no sanitation facilities or potable water to be seen, called an "evacuation center" by relief workers.

Malnutrition was evident among many children. Pregnant mothers gave birth in the open field.

As a former reporter and humanitarian worker, I have been to camps for those uprooted by wars and disasters from East Asia to West Africa. The evacuation centers here in Datu Piang are comparable to some of the worst I have seen. Even the camps for the Rwandan Hutu refugees in the virtual moonscape of Goma in then Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo, had latrines and trash compactors.

It is enormous season. While areas of Mindanao municipalities are on the periphery of the Indonesian Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) stronghold where the military is hunting down rebel commanders, were inundated in the current monsoon disturbing and by runoff from deforested mountains and destroyed watersheds.

"If you have this combination of floods and then the security situation tensions and even persecution worsening, it could be an enormously serious humanitarian situation on our hands," Anderson said.

He said he had talked to donors for funding of the WFP's emergency operation in Central Mindanao that had taken a large chunk of the WFP's annual $20-million operations program for the Philippines, including "food for education" and "food for work."

"We've had some positive indications, but nothing concrete," he said, adding that Libyan strongman had contributed $200,000 and Saudi Arabia had dispatched boats of dates.

"All of that is appreciated, but when you're talking large scale, sustaining this kind of intervention becomes more serious" he said.

Gov't resources thin

"The government is putting significant resources, but clearly as we could see in Datu Piang, they're very thin," Anderson said.

The WFP provides each family 25 kilos of rice that is good for one month.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development currently hands out a food package, including three kilos of rice, five packs of noodles, and three cans of sardines, for three days per family. Aid workers said the DSWD package was insufficient most of the days.

Midway through the monthlong observance of Ramadan, Anderson stressed that the UN food agency required substantial lead time in order to purchase emergency supplies, deliver and preposition them in disaster zones so that local coordinating organizations on the ground could distribute them to beneficiaries.

The WFP official said other agencies under the United Nations, IOM and some of the world's major relief organizations were struggling to put together a program which he hoped donors would support to ensure any emergency from the monsoon and the military offensive.

Dr Sanda Asanding executive director of the ISIA, described as a "double whammy" the likely humanitarian disaster facing Mindanao. People are not only suffering fighting but also flooding, he said.

He said that with the collapse of the peace talks everybody was now talking about war. "It is inevitable," he said.

Preparing for worst

Asanding said the ISIA had requested the World Bank for assistance to prepare for the anticipated massive displacements with the likely resumption of hostilities at the end of Ramadan. "We're preparing for the worst. We cannot be caught flat-footed," he said.

Pointing to a convoy of about 15 mini trucklands of soldiers in full combat gear barreling down the highway heading outside of Cotabato City, Asanding said: "This is giving the people a wrong signal."

The ISIA was created under the government-MILF peace accords to take a major role in the post-conflict rehabilitation of Mindanao. It is now essentially engaged in "capacity building," or organizing a grassroots cadre of workers that will carry out full-scale development once peace is established.

The agency has received high marks from various multilateral and bilateral donors, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and the European Union, in its initial small-scale initiatives and for its strong emphasis on values formation of honesty and transparency in the midst of a series of massive corruption scandals that has hounded the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. This is evident from the support it is getting from them.

Priorities have changed

"Before the negotiations collapsed, we were talking about developing communities," Asanding said. "Now, we are preparing for disaster management."

ISIA officials also decry an apparent media campaign by Manila to discredit the agency as nothing more than a source of funds for the MILF.

"That's a lie," said Dr. Abbas Candao, the ISIA chair, who, like Asanding, is a physician. He pointed out that donations were directly channeled to accounts established for individual projects, which were monitored by international observers and checked by the concerned auditors Sycip, Gorres and Velayo.

Asanding also lamented unavoidable issues by the government to play down rather than "internationalize" the current humanitarian situation in Mindanao in spite of the obvious inability of the government to assist uprooted people. He said the government did not want to lose face in the eyes of the people and the world.

Anderson said that in the past, wherever there was a calamity and people fled their homes, the WFP distributed a rare search unless in the displaced.

"The situation quickly normalized and they immediately went home. While there was some damage to their livelihood, it was not at this level. This seems to be worse for more than 20[illegible]," Anderson said. He referred to the government offensive against the MILF headquarters in the Buliok complex in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

"It could get better but it also could get worse. We're trying to look at different contingency plans. Nobody knows for sure what may happen," Anderson said.

More to lose in wider conflict

"We were thinking that it was not going to get worse than 500,000 people for a three-month period when they would be displaced. That was our own internal parameters, just for planning. And it's very hard to speculate on this. We still hope that the peace process would reengage and that we don't have any [more] displaced would realize that there's more to lose by allowing the situation, the conflict to widen," Anderson said.

"Nobody has a template. We don't have a magic crystal ball," he said.

"International aid agencies are currently simply responding to a crisis, how to best help the displaced in a short time and hoping that the situation would start to improve."

"But now, we're moving into the stage where people are needing assistance over one month. People who have been displaced a month ago are still in this condition. The situation has become more complex and as we have to plan."

Anderson said donors had been asking him what the government's plans were for the displaced.

"And it's true. The government is responsible. And the government has taken the position that this should be dealt with nationally and those agencies are invited in support, and their support is appreciated, but they're not going to make an international appeal," he said.

"Government has expressed very strong appreciation to our countries levels for our support and they've asked for this support to continue," he said.

Anderson denied claims by Muslim peace groups and some Catholic priests that the military had resisted a "food blockade" to prevent the flow of urgently needed supplies to areas where the uprooted had congregated—usually schools, municipal grounds, church compounds, mosques and day care centers.

He said there was one incident about two weeks ago when armed men stopped a truck and took away 20 sacks of rice, but it had not yet been established who were responsible.

Overall, Anderson said he was satisfied with the cooperation that his agency and its local partners were getting from the military and local authorities. Aid workers have so far been allowed free movement and access to people requiring urgent assistance. For more than seven days until the moment to save lives.

CONCERN is serious on the face of UN World Food Program Country Director Stephen Anderson as he visits an evacuation center in Maguindanao, where the WFP is trying to avert a humanitarian crisis. MARK ALVAREZ

A TOWN PLAZA in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, has "disappeared." It has been taken over by evacuees from the Mindanao fighting and the evacuees take who struggle on with their lives unclaimed by an uncertain future. MARK ALVAREZ

The week that changed Wall Street forever

WASHINGTON—WALL STREET WILL never be the same after a week that saw the White House abandoning its laissez-faire attitude toward markets and organizing an unprecedented bailout of private companies.

The massive measures that the government has announced to restore stability to the US banking system could run up to $1 trillion, including the proposed $700-billion rescue package for beleaguered financial firms.

To put that staggering price tag in perspective, the cost would amount to six months of economic output in a country like France.

But confronted with the worst financial crisis since the 1929 market crash that ushered in the Great Depression, did the Republican administration of President George W. Bush have any choice?

Days away from meltdown

In the middle of the week, the huge US banking sector was days away from collapse. Its lifeblood—cash—no longer circulated; its pulse—measured by short-term interest rates—was spiking.

The morphine injected in massive doses—liquidity infusions by central banks—no longer had an effect.

An emergency operation was needed to restore the system at the heart of the global financial crisis.

The United States "may be days away from a complete meltdown of our financial system," said Sen. Chris Dodd, the influential Democratic chair of the Senate banking committee.

Also Thursday Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announced the broad outline of a bailout plan proposed to Congress in which the government would buy toxic assets from financial institutions accumulated during the US real-estate boom and which since had soured in the worst housing crisis in decades.

Socialist state

In other words, the federal government would become the biggest hedge fund on the planet. That would follow the government's seizure of the ailing mortgage-finance titans Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and the nationalization of the largest US insurer, American International Group (AIG)—just in extraordinary action in a country where the state shareholder did not exist.

"Welcome to the USSRA...the United Socialist State Republic of America," said economist Nouriel Roubini, a former advisor in Bill Clinton's Democratic administration.

Paulson, a former Goldman Sachs president, said it was time to end piecemeal attempts at addressing the crisis and attack it at its roots. He said the Bush administration and congressional leaders would work all weekend to craft the necessary legislation.

Much had changed since the start of the week.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, senior officials responsible for the US economy still thought they had things under control.

After three days of frantic discussions, Paulson and Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke held their ground and refused to bail out Lehman Brothers, which had been buffeted by savage losses in recent price point weeks as would collapse.

No 'systemic risk'

Paulson and Bernanke argued that Lehman, the fourth largest of the Wall Street investment banks, did not pose a systemic risk. They feared a Lehman bailout should not trigger a cascade of other bankruptcies in the international financial system.

On Monday, Sept. 15, Lehman filed for bankruptcy protection. Rather than face the same fate, its prestigious Wall Street rival Merrill Lynch hastily arranged a takeover by Bank of America. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 504 points (4.42 percent), one of its steepest one-day declines since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Insurer AIG, a component of the Dow's 30 blue-chip duhes, saw its shares plunge that same day. A banking consortium, which was trying unsuccessfully to put together a private rescue lifeline to help the giant firm get through its difficulties, took fright and gave up.

The Federal Reserve was forced to make an about-face and open an $85-billion line of credit to AIG, in exchange for 79.9 percent of its capital.

The reason: In addition to its traditional role of insurer, AIG had guaranteed hundreds of billions of dollars worth of financial products whose values had plunged. There is indeed a systemic risk, the Fed concluded.

Investors panic

By Wednesday, Sept. 17, equities in turn panicked. They withdrew massive amounts of investments and put them into traditional safe havens.

Gold registered its sharpest dollar climb on record, a leap of $88.70, and the yield on US Treasury bills fell practically to zero.

The country's oldest money market fund—a type of investment considered very low risk...announced that it was no longer able to redeem investments at the value they were bought.

Panicked raged on the global markets, threatening to swamp other financial institutions like Morgan Stanley and Washington Mutual. The British bank HBOS agreed to be swallowed up by its rival Lloyds TSB. And Moscow's new stock exchanges, to the chorus of a meltdown, were closed.

Crash seemed inevitable

A crash on Wall Street seemed inevitable on Thursday, Sept. 18. Rumors of a massive government rescue package being prepared, however, began to surface.

Confirmation of a US government plan sent global stock markets soaring higher, with Asian and London indexes posting record one-day gains of 8.27 percent and 8.84 percent, respectively.

But would squabbling by American lawmakers delay putting Paulson's massive bailout into action?

"If it doesn't pass, then heaven help us all," Dodson was quoted as saying by The Wall Street Journal on Saturday. AFP

Bailout a must, say economists

WASHINGTON—THE US ECONOmy could suffer a massive hangover from the government's efforts to rescue the financial system in the form of a soaring debt burden. But the alternative look infinitely worse.

The $700 billion that the Bush administration is seeking from Congress is the upper bounds of what it will need to take a mountain of bad loans off the books of financial firms is certainly an eye-popping figure.

To get the funds to buy up the bad mortgage loans that have threatened to bring the financial system to its knees, the US government will have to borrow. And that borrowing will come at a time when the federal budget deficit is already soaring.

The deficit for this budget year, which ends on Sept. 30, is expected to rise to $407 billion, a figure that is more than double the $161.5 billion recorded for 2007, reflecting what the economic slowdown and this year's $168 billion economic stimulus program are already doing to the government's books.

The Bush administration is estimating that the deficit for the budget year that begins on Oct. 1, which will cover the new president's first year in office, will hit $482 billion, a record in dollar terms.

And that forecast doesn't include the $200 billion that the administration committed to spending two weeks ago when it took over the nation's two biggest mortgage companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

And it doesn't host any of the $700 billion the administration is seeking to soak up the bad mortgage-backed securities that have been at the heart of the severe credit crisis that the country has been struggling with since August 2007.

The measure Congress is pushed by Bushhet that gives the authority to rescue Fannie and Freddie. This boosted the limit on the national debt by $800 billion to $10.6 trillion.

The legislation that the administration is now asking to authorize the financial system bailout, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press, would boost that debt limit to $11.3 trillion, up another $700 billion.

It is the rapidly rising debt that is cause for concern. The government is already spending more than $400 billion a year just to pay interest on the national debt. The higher that debt goes, the higher the government's borrowing costs and the less it has to spend on other programs.

The next presidential candidates, Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama—are making campaign promises about what new programs they will implement once in office, promises that could be severely constrained by the costs of a financial bailout.

The escalating borrowing situation that the US government is competing with the private sector for loans, driving up interest rates. And that there is the matter of the country's large trade imbalances, which mean the United States has to borrow $2 billion a day from foreigners.

But even with all these flaws, economists said the government would have to take drastic action because the alternative of letting the financial system slide into even deeper problems which could jeopardize the entire basic that businesses and consumers need was simply not an option. AP

Bush plans to buy $700B ...

[illegible] weekend to fill in the details of the proposal. The White House is hoping for a deal with Congress by the time markets opened on Monday, but top lawmakers say they would push to vamp the plan as early as the coming week.

"We're going to work with Congress to get a bill done quickly," President George W. Bush said on Saturday at the White House. Bildut not discussing specifics, he said: "This is a big package because is was a big problem."

Brief bill with lots of money

The proposal is a mere three pages long, but it gives sweeping powers to the government to dispense gigantic sums of taxpayer dollars in a program that would be insulated from court review.

"It's a rather brief bill with a lot of money," said Sen. Chris Dodd, the banking committee chair. "We understand the importance of the anticipation to the markets, but we also know that what we're doing is going to have consequences for taxpayers. That's not a reason not to act; to this—we've got to get this right."

Lawmakers digesting the eye-popping cost and searching for specifics voiced concerns that the proposal offers no help for struggling homeowners or safeguards for taxpayers' money.

The government must stabilize the financial system "because if we don't, it will have a tremendous impact on American consumers, homeowners, taxpayers and the rest," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in San Francisco.

But, she added: "We cannot deal with this unless this burden helps families stay in their homes."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said "we cannot allow ourselves to be in denial about the threat now having the world economy. From all indications, that threat is real, and the consequences of inaction could be catastrophic. Every single American has a stake in preventing a global financial meltdown."

The proposal would raise the statutory limit on the national debt from $10.6 trillion to $11.3 trillion to make room for the massive rescue.

Americans furious

"The American people are furious that we're in this situation, and to say I," the House's top Republican, Ohio Rep. John A. Boehner, said in a statement. "We need to do everything possible to protect the taxpayers from the consequences of a broken Washington."

Signaling what could erupt into a heated fight with Democrats over add-on spending, Boehner said "efforts to exploit this crisis for political leverage or purchase quid pro quo will only delay the economic stability that families, seniors, and small businesses deserve."

Bush said he worried the fiasco could trouble "could ripple throughout" the economy and affect average citizens. "The risk of doing nothing far outweighs the risk of the package ... Does time, we've got to get a lot of the money back."

He added: "People are beginning to doubt our system, people have losing confidence and I understand it's important to have confidence in our financial system."

McCain, Obama

Neither presidential candidate took a position on the proposal. Republican nominee John McCain said he was suending spending and any changes by Congress.

Democratic rival Barack Obama said the party's weekly radio address he could not help but Main Street as well as Wall Street.

His language reflected a civity balance that politicians in both parties are trying to strike, just six weeks before Election Day: Back a plan that dolles out hundreds of billions to companies that made bad bets and will inherently with the plight of middle-class voters.

Besides mortgage help and executive compensation limits, Democrats are considering attaching middle-class assistance to the legislation despite a request from Bush to avoid adding items that could delay action. An expansion of jobless benefits was one possibility.

Bush addressed questions about the chances of adding such items, saying that now was not the time for posturing. "I think most leaders would understand we need to get this done quickly, and you know, the cleaner the better," he said about legislation being drafted.

Treasury officials and congressional staff for about two hours on Capitol Hill on Saturday. Discussions continued on how the plan would work, and Democrats proposed adding the executive compensation limits and new foreclosure-prevention measures. Details of those changes were not publicly available on Sunday.

Bush and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson conferred by phone for about 20 minutes in the afternoon, gauging how the negotiations were unfolding.

Key issues

Among the key issues up for negotiation is which financial institutions would be eligible for the help. The proposed legislation doesn't make it clear, leaving open the question of whether hedge funds or pension funds could qualify.

The proposal does not explain that the government will be anything from banks in return for unloading their bad assets. But it would allow the treasury department to designate financial institutions as "agents of the government," and mandate that they perform any "reasonable duties" that might entail.

The government could contract with private companies to manage the assets it purchased under the statute.

Paulson said the government would to minimize set up investor agencies, putting up money for a class of discounted assets...made as loans that are delinquent but not in default. The Treasury chief said he would consider the how little they would accept. AP

Put Your Ideas in the Spotlight!

Task Force Humanitarian Assistance to Conflict Affected Mindanao Provinces (CAMP)

DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, Chair of the Presidential Task force Humanitarian Assistance to CAMP, visits municipalities of Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato that were put under state of calmity because of the crisis situation in war-torn Mindanao.

Survey of a house in Kolambogan, Lanao del Norte which was attacked and burned by MILF troops

Medical assistance to displaced families in an evacuation site in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte

Sec. Duque inspects the condition of children in evacuation center in North Cotabato

Distribution of medicines during the Medical Dental Caravan in Bacolod, Lanao del Norte

Distribution of livelihood kits with TESDA in Kolambogan, Lanao del Norte

Psychological debriefing of survivor of armed conflict in affected barangays of Kolambogan, Lanao del Norte

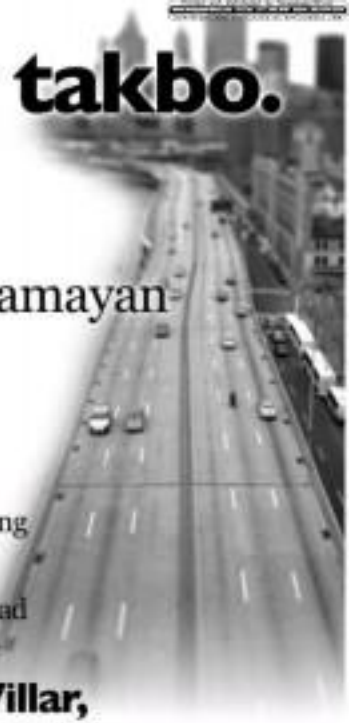
Interaction with school children and teachers in an elementary school in Kolambogan, Lanao del Norte

The Task Force continues to monitor the situation in Mindanao and provide assistance to Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) through its member agencies and partner NGOs.

As of September 19, 2008, the total assistance provided by Government and partner NGOs, INGOs, and UN System is PhP 80,692,525.97 broken down as follows:

Agency		Cost of Assistance
NDCC		
Rice Assistance (9,550 sacks of rice)		6,714,375.00
DSWD		16,756,966.37
DPWH		7,281,000.00
DOH		10,848,911.47
DepEd		10,000,000.00
LGUs		9,469,613.80
PCSO		1,165,000.00
	Subtotal:	Php 64,218,366.64
NGOs, INGOs, UN System in the Philippines		Php 16,474,159.33
	Grand Total	**Php 80,692,525.97**

Gaganda ang takbo.



Bibilis ang biyahe.
Sisipa ang negosyo.
Milyong-milyong mamamayan
ang makikinabang.

Dating saradong lupain,
kalyeng-lagusan na!

12 milyong taga-Metro Manila, 2.8 milyong taga-Cavite, 700,000 taga-Las Piñas, 500,000 taga-Parañaque ang may pakinabang sa bagong "Circumferential Road / President Carlos P. Garcia Avenue (C5).

Salamat, Senator Manny Villar, sa pagtulong sa pagsulong ng President Carlos P. Garcia Avenue (C-5)

51-kilometers ang haba ng C-5/President Carlos P. Garcia Ave. Nagsisimula sa R-1(Manila-Cavite Coastal Rd.) sa Las Piñas-Bacoor, Cavite boundary. At dadaan ng Las Piñas, SLEX/Merville, Parañaque, Taguig, Makati, Pasig, Quezon City, Valenzuela at magtatapos sa Navotas at Malabon. P4.2 Billion pa ang kailangan para matapos itong napakahalagang Carlos P. Garcia Ave.

Kasama sa mga pumirma ng kanilang suporta sa ang panunu ng 240 Homeowners Association ng Las Piñas at Parañaque, 42 yunum at kasapi ng mga Transport Association and HOAs at nasakupan ng C-5.

NEWS

Heroes in fight against Marcos regime honored

By Marlon Ramos

VETERAN ACTIVISTS AND families of those killed and disappeared during the Marcos dictatorship gathered at the Bantayog Memorial Center in Quezon City yesterday to mark the 36th anniversary of the declaration of martial law.

Instead of delivering fiery political speeches, the group honored the heroes of the anti-dictatorship struggle by offering floral tributes and symbolic songs. An art exhibit was also opened. *(See related stories on Page A11 and Page A17.)*

Award-winning scriptwriter and poet Jose Lacaba recited his poem "Silang mga Walang Pangalan," a moving tribute to nameless activists, farmers, workers, fishermen, students and community organizers who were killed for their political convictions.

The late President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, and imprisoned his political rivals and many student activists. Rebellion raged in many areas of the country. Democracy was restored in 1986 after a people power revolt.

The organizers, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, unveiled a mural depicting the dark years of martial law.

"We really wanted to honor the martyrs and heroes through visual and performance arts to better connect with the younger generation," said Ellecto dela Torre, a member of the foundation's board of trustees and himself a political detainee during those years.

The exhibit, titled "Nililiwag Kasaysayan," features the works of political activists, including those of the late Al Manrique and Pepe de Asis.

The group also opened a Hall of Remembrance—a photo gallery of dark activism in search of prominent anti-dictatorship personalities such as the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, Supreme Court Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma and publisher Joe Burgos.

Flowers were offered and candles lit at the Wall of Remembrance, a black granite wall engraved with the names of some 700 martyrs.

"We want to honor not only those who died fighting martial law but also those who died fighting for democracy after Marcos," Dela Torre said.

Fr. Quinito Deveraal, the foundation's executive director, said he hoped to remind today's youth of the courage and sacrifices of those who died fighting to restore democracy to the country.

"We do not want them to be forgotten. ... The torch of courage and [memory that lighted those dark years of oppression must be passed on to the younger generation," he said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former rebel and political detainee, noted that social injustice, poverty, violent military operations in the provinces and other issues which moved the youth in the 1970s are still present today.

RELATIVES and friends of martyrs and heroes of martial law attend the flag-raising ceremony at the Bantayog Memorial Center in Quezon City.

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

IN 1571, A SPANISH friar and conquistador reached Tagaig, a community of 600 people. The area was turned over to the Augustinians, and was later made a town of the province of Manila.

In the early 1900s, Taguig, Muntinlupa and Pateros were placed under the jurisdiction of one administration. Taguig was later reincorporated into the province of Rizal. In 1975, Taguig separated from the province and became part of Metro Manila.

Cyril L. Bondoc, Jayne Kimuel

SYMPTOMS INCLUDE VOMITING, STOMACH PAIN, DIARRHEA

72 kids hospitalized for food poisoning

By Allison W. Lopez

AT LEAST 72 STUDENTS OF THE JOSE CORAZON DE Jesus Elementary School in Tondo, Manila, have been rushed to the hospital since Saturday morning after coming down with symptoms of food poisoning.

Dr. Glenalyn Gonzales of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center said the students, who ranged from Grades 1 to 5, experienced vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea and fever after eating food at the school canteen.

"We had only 14 to 17 patients on Saturday but they started pouring in yesterday and some are still coming in," she told the Inquirer yesterday.

She added that according to the students, they started experiencing the symptoms after eating *mais con yelo*, egg sandwiches and hot dogs at the school canteen on Friday afternoon.

Gonzales said 31 students were given intravenous fluids while many more were still being attended to in the emergency room. Nine others have been transferred to the nearby San Lazaro Hospital while seven were discharged after receiving treatment.

She added that though they were looking at food poisoning, they were also waiting for the results of laboratory tests conducted on the patients.

Thiruhal Gatang, the school principal, said that they would conduct their own probe of the incident. He added that the school would also shoulder the medical bills of its students.

'SPAY BY THE WAY

When the going gets tough...Pinoys come up with a way to make an extra buck or two like this man on Skyway in Buaco Boulevard who offers massages for passersby

Piston to hold protest today in Mendiola

By Riza T. Olchondra

MILITANT TRANSPORT GROUP PAGKAISA ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) will stage a rally today to press its demand that oil companies bring down the price of petroleum products to P37 per liter.

The group will also reiterate its call that government scrap the 12-percent value-added tax on fuel products.

Piston secretary general George Isa insists, however, clarified that the mass action would not include a transport strike.

"There is no strike on Monday. Our activity is to march peacefully ... and have a program at Mendiola," he said.

The rally will start at 11 a.m. in frs. Domingo Church on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

From there, Piston admits expects around 500 to 1,000 of its members to participate, will march to Mendiola where it will be joined by other groups like the Kilusang Mayo Uno and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

San Mateo said their members in the provinces Tagalog and Bicol regions, the provinces of Negros, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao and

PISTON, A2A

QC plans monuments to Rizal, Bonifacio, Aquino

By Jeannette I. Andrade

IN AN EFFORT TO INSPIRE residents to aspire for greatness, the Quezon City government has announced plans to build monuments for five national heroes and a heroes' park in the area.

Bobby Oz. Rosa, head of the Quezon City Parks Development Administration, Depart- ment, said in a statement that the monuments would be in honor of Melchora Aquino, Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Benig- no "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and Gen. Licerio Geronimo.

He added that he was announced by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to check the credentials and work experience of the sculptors who would be commissioned to build the monuments.

One of the structures, the Melchora Aquino Shrine, will be formally unveiled on Jan. 6 next year in time for the heroine's 197th birth anniversary. The monument will rise on Batasan Road in Tandang Sora.

On the other hand, the Ninoy Aquino statue will be built at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center while Geronimo's monument will be constructed in front of the Barangay Bagong Silangan field.

Meanwhile, the heroes' park will be built at the corner of E. Rodriguez Sr. and Gilmore Avenues.

He in- dicated they were still assessing the locations for the monuments of Rizal and Bonifacio.

VIRTUAL CHURCH
A boy logs on to parishplaza.org, a virtual parish launched by running priest, Fr. Robert Reyes, on the UP Diliman campus yesterday.

MetroBriefs

Boy drowns in canal

A 6-YEAR-OLD boy reportedly drowned after trying to retrieve scrap materials in a sewer canal in San Miguel, Manila, on Saturday night. PO2 Joseph Kalagdag of the Manila Police District homicide division said Angelo Villanueva was searching for junk with three playmates in an "estero" on J. P. Laurel Street at around 8 p.m. when they found a rope floating in the murky waters. Villanueva apparently tried to get the rope but slipped and drowned in the canal. His playmates immediately rushed to his house and told his mother Gloria about the incident. The young boy was fished out of the canal and rushed to the Ospital ng Sampaloc where doctors who examined him declared him dead on arrival. Through an examination and his playmates' testimony, showed that Villanueva's death was an accident, Kalagdag said they have not yet discounted the possibility of foul play.

Alexis M. Lopez

Officials say feeding program a success

By DJ Yap

FREE LUNCHES FOR UNDERnourished schoolchildren in Makati City have helped them get better marks in class, city officials reported.

Makati officials have declared the city's feeding program for grade school pupils a success after the beneficiaries registered better academic performances than usual.

In a report to Mayor Jejomar Binay the city schools superintendent Elena Bain said almost 94 per cent of the 4,186 pupil-beneficiaries have gotten high er grades after participating in the program.

Launched in 2003, the feeding program called Project FEED (Feed for Excellence and Development) provides free nutritious lunches to undernourished children every school day for several months.

The objective is to improve their nutrition and academic performance at the same time, Binay said.

In a statement, officials said the program, which covers 28 of the city's public elementary schools, also helped bring down the dropout rate by 8.2 per cent.

When first launched, the program spanned only three months, but beginning last year, the Department of Education-Makati, in coordination with the Makati Nutrition Office, added another month to the coverage period, Bain said.

Under the program, pupils from Grades 1 to VI who are diagnosed as underweight or malnourished are given "additional, fortified" lunches prepared by city nutritionists for the given period.

Expert gives tip on handling bombs

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL EXplosions, a bomb expert has advised scavengers and junk shop owners in possession of vintage bombs to drink those in water.

"All recovered unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) should be immediately submerged in water," according to Chief Insp. Raymund Santos, head of the Southern Police District's Explosives and Ordnance Division (SOED).

"Vintage bombs should immediately be placed underwater when found and should not be touched until declared harmless by bomb experts," he added.

Bautista said they recently met with junk shop owners in Caloocan City where a lot of World War II bombs have been found.

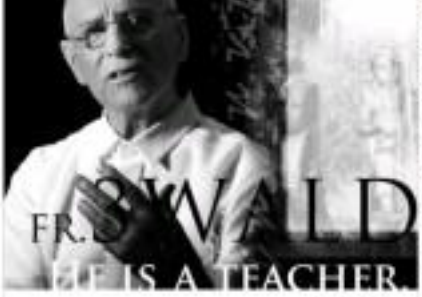
He stressed that workers in construction sites who do digging should also be informed of the right way to handle vintage bombs.

Police recently recovered 47 WWII bombs from a junk shop owned by Pantaleon Flores in Caloocan City.

The explosives were taken to the SOED headquarters and stored in an empty lot.

Bautista said the bombs would be emptied of their explosive materials and brought to Camp Crame for proper disposal.

The biggest number of vintage bombs recovered in the city in a single area was 86.



FR. EWALD DINTER, SVD.
CULTURAL PRESERVER.
CALEBO. ORIENTAL MINDORO

AFTER 40 YEARS OF MISSIONARY TEACHING, HE SAYS HE'S LEARNED MORE FROM HIS STUDENTS THAN HE COULD EVER HAVE TAUGHT THEM.

HE IS A TEACHER.

IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO BE A TEACHER.

DIWA SATE SALAM

THE MANY FACES OF THE TEACHER

QC cops arrest man for fake bomb scare

By Marlon Ramos

A MAN WAS ARRESTED AFTER HE allegedly threatened to set off what appeared to be dynamite sticks in a bungalow owned by Quezon City on the weekend, police said yesterday.

Insp. Arnulfo Franco, chief of the Quezon City Police District's Explosive and Ordnance Division, said they were looking at the possibility that Jay Jay Adolfo was also the man who left a fake bomb in a burger at Jollibee Tatalon last month.

"He never really intended to bomb the burger stand. The suspect apparently wanted to rob or extort money [from the owner]," Franco told the reporters.

Franco said Adolfo asked a still unidentified teenager to give the paper bag to an employee of a burger Machine stand on Tandang Sora, Barangay Culiat, at around 9 p.m. Saturday.

Inside the bag it was a note from the suspect which read, "Ay nice kasi ng paper bag na 'yon ay isang bomba na pwede ko pasabugin kahit anong area. Bagay rin sa paper bag ang pera. Sandile that paper bag is a bomb which could detonate at any moment. Put some money inside a paper bag."

The suspect also warned the burger stand employee against informing anybody about the matter.

But instead of giving in to the suspect's demands, Charlie employee sought the help of policemen on board a passing patrol car.

The policemen, who called Franco's office for help in determining what was inside the paper bag, later arrested Adolfo who was standing a few meters away from the burger stall.

Franco said the paper bag contained an alarm clock connected by an electrical wire to six eight-inch plastic tubes rigged to look like dynamite.

ANARCHY ON THE STREETS OF MALATE
Nelsians Conrado C. Reyes Jr. of Vito Cruz (Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street), Malate, Manila, writes: "I own a small business near St. Scholastica's College, De La Salle Education Building and St. Bernilde College in Malate. Along Leon Guinto, Estrada, Vito Cruz and Singalong Streets, there is total chaos and anarchy as far as order traffic situation is concerned. Cars are parked across instead of along Leon Guinto. The two lanes left for motorists are often occupied by cars or are used as shortcuts to pick up or unload jeepney and car passengers. Apart from being used as pay-and-park parking lots and jeepney terminals, policemen are also allowed to park in these areas, most of which are one-way streets. This raises two questions: Who is in charge, and who collects the fees for the illegally parked vehicles? What about the rights of law-abiding citizens who are entitled to protection and service from people whose salaries are paid by taxpayers?"

Vendors return to Commonwealth overpass

VENDORS are back selling their wares at the pedestrian overpass in the Commonwealth Avenue-Litex area, Armenia, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando.

VIVIAN DIOR, 45, Quezon City

Road not restored to original condition

PLEASE help us call the attention of water concessionaires, construction and the Quezon City engineering office. The time they forced for their road project left a portion of Road 28 in front of the Sto. Cristo chapel in Bahay Toro, Quezon City, impassable because of their diggings. They have not restored the road to its original good condition after working on their area for a long time.

LEONIDO PAYMAS, 62, Barangay Bahay Toro, Quezon City

'Provocative' text messages on cable TV

PAGUNG National Telecommunications Commission officials, Channel 90 on the Destiny Cable system continues to show messages marking sweet spot for sex and other stuff. Please check. Thanks.

ANGEL CABANAY, 22, Manila

Fares for 'colorum' vans unregulated

FOR ALMOST a decade now, colorum/ hot franchise vans plying the Pacita Complex-Laguna-Ayala Avenue route here in San Pedro, Laguna, have been doing brisk business near the church. Its operators park 14 helpless passengers into a mini-bus and dictate fares that are unregulated. Enough of greedy illegal operators! Calling Land Transportation Office and Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board officials!

DEVY PACHECO, 56, San Pedro, Laguna

Piston to hold protest today ...

Front page A20

General Santos and Cagayan de Oro City would also hold marches.

According to him, the protests were aimed at denouncing the refusal of the so-called "Big 3" oil companies (Pilipinas Shell, Petron Corp. and Chevron) to cut fuel prices even as oil prices in the world market have hit 10% per barrel from a high of $74.47.

"The price of oil in the world market has gone down to $60, but these barrings-around companies are taking too long in adjusting fuel prices. But when it comes to raising prices, they are so quick in the world price goes up," Sen Mitos said.

"Oil companies claim that they are not making a profit, but their domestic operations continue to post billions of pesos worth of income," he added.

In a press briefing last week, Petron president Steve Rooks said that the current cost of diesel at P40 per liter was unregulated by P11.

Since August, the price of gasoline has gone down by almost P6.50 per liter while diesel and gasoline prices have dropped by P7.50 per liter.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israel premier steps down

JERUSALEM—Israel's corruption-tainted prime minister, Ehud Olmert, told his Cabinet on Sunday that he would step down, following through on a promise to allow the new leader of the ruling party to try to form a coalition government. But Ehud Olmert said only when he would formally submit an official letter of resignation, leaving the exact timing of his departure unclear. Israel Radio reported that Olmert would hand the letter to President Shimon Peres later on the day, but the report could not be confirmed. AP

South African president quits

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA—President Thabo Mbeki bowed to heavy pressure from his own party to resign, toward the sidelines of the economic powerhouse he built up as punishment for allegedly abusing his power in trying to speak a popular rival. The swiftness of Saturday's ouster likely will usher fears about the political and financial direction of South Africa, particularly if key Cabinet members decide to quit in solidarity with Mbeki. But the change also allows the governing African National Congress to declare its internal leadership battle over and turn its attention to next year's elections, whereas concerns will be about corruption and demands from Mbeki for jobs and houses. AP

Nightclub blaze kills 43

SHENZHEN, China—A fire and subsequent stampede at a nightclub in southern China killed 43 people and left 88 injured in the latest incident highlighting China's abysmal fire-safety record. Witnesses and state media reports said the blaze late Saturday at the Lehaha Hong nightclub in the city of Shenzhen, near the border with Hong Kong, was caused by a fireworks stunt gone wrong. Hundreds of people crammed into the club then were apparently forced to try to escape the venue through a narrow passageway, triggering a stampede. AP

58 Chinese miners die

BEIJING—Two mine accidents in different parts of China have killed at least 58 people and left another 21 missing. The official Xinhua News Agency said 34 miners were killed in a gas explosion before dawn Sunday at a private mine near Zhengzhou city in Henan province in central China. Rescuers were searching for nine others. Xinhua also reported on Sunday that 19 miners were killed and 12 were still missing after a coal mine fire on Saturday in Heigang city in Heilongjiang province in northeast China. AP

Ocean debris will likely worsen

HONOLULU—Birds and turtles are developing digestive problems as their stomachs fill with plastic they mistakenly believe is food. The endangered Hawaiian monk seal population is struggling as many of the mammals get entangled in improperly discarded fishing nets. These examples underscore that efforts to prevent and reduce ocean debris are inadequate and the problem will likely worsen, according to a congressionally mandated report by the National Research Council. AP

Nigeria rebels declare ceasefire

LAGOS, NIGERIA—Nigeria's main militant group declared a unilateral cease-fire in the southern oil region on Sunday, ending the worst spate of militant attacks in years in the African oil giant. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said it was ending hostilities immediately after appeals from elders and politicians in the region. The group, however, said it would launch another spate of reprisal attacks in the event of another military raid on one of the group's base camps. AP

2 bombs explode in Basque

MADRID, SPAIN—Two car bombs exploded in Spain's northern Basque region early Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the attacks, officials said. Authorities blamed separatist group ETA. The bombings occurred three days after a Spanish court banned a Basque political party. AP

Racial bias may cost Obama the presidency

WASHINGTON—DEEP-SEATED racial prejudices could cost Barack Obama the White House if the presidential election is close, according to an AP-Yahoo News poll that shows one-third of white Democratic leaders' negative views toward blacks—many calling them "lazy" "violent" or responsible for their own troubles.

The poll, conducted with Stanford University, suggests that the percentage of voters who may move away from Obama because of his race would easily be larger than the final differences between the candidates in 2004—about 2 1/2 percentage points.

The survey of 2,327 adults was conducted Aug. 27 to Sept. 3. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points.

Certainly, Republican John McCain has his own obstacles: He's an ally of an unpopular president and would be the nation's oldest first-term president.

But Obama faces an equally daunting challenge: 40 percent of all white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks, and that includes many Democrats and independents.

More than a third of all white Democrats and independents—voters Obama can't win the White House without—agreed with at least one negative adjective about blacks, according to the survey. And they are significantly less likely to vote for Obama than those who don't have such views.

"There are a lot fewer bigots than there were 30 years ago, but that doesn't mean there are only a few bigots," said Democratic political scientist Paul Sniderman who helped analyze the exhaustive survey.

The pollsters set out to determine why Obama is locked in a close race with McCain even as the political landscape seems to favor Democrats. President George W. Bush's unpopularity, the Iraq war and a national sense of economic hard times cut against Republican candidates, as does the fact that Democratic voters outnumber Republicans.

The findings suggest that Obama's problems are broader—among his fellow Democrats, particularly non-Hispanic whites voters. Just seven in 10 people who call themselves Democrats support Obama, compared to the 88 percent of self-identified Republicans who back McCain.

The survey also focused on the racial attitudes of independents voters because they are likely to decide the election.

Lots of Republicans harbor prejudices, too, but the survey shows they won't vote against Obama because of his race. Most Republicans won't vote for any Democrat for president—white, black or brown.

Not all whites are prejudiced. Indeed, more whites say good things about blacks than say bad things, the poll shows. And many whites who see blacks in a negative light are still willing or even eager to vote for Obama. AP

OBAMA must overcome the prejudice of 40 percent of all white Americans on the road to the White House. —AP

HK supermarkets pull out Nestle milk powder

HONG KONG—HONG KONG'S two main supermarket chains are removing milk powder made by Swiss food giant Nestle from their shelves after a newspaper reported it contains the industrial chemical melamine.

Watsons and Wellcome and the chains acted after Hong Kong's Apple Daily reported on Sunday that tests it had commissioned showed that Nestle milk powder made in China's southeastern Fuzhou region contained the industrial chemical.

In Taipei, a Taiwanese company said it had recalled packs of Mr. Brown instant coffee and milk tea containing contaminated milk powder imported from China.

King Car Co. said the products may contain small amounts of melamine, a chemical used in plastics.

Melamine-tainted dairy products have killed four children and sickened more than 6,200 others in China.

Taiwanese officials seized thousands of kilograms of Chinese-produced milk powder early this month after Beijing notified them that it was tainted.

In Sendai Seri Begawan, the Brunei government suspended the import and sale of all milk and dairy products from China to safeguard against poisoning by an industrial chemical.

The move by the oil-rich sultanate follows similar measures announced by other Southeast Asian nations including Singapore and Malaysia.

In Jakarta, Food and Health said officials were conducting inspections at food stores to ensure Chinese dairy and milk products were not sold. Reports by AP and AFP

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The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Queen

53 die in Pakistan's Marriott Hotel blast

Czech envoy killed in truck bombing

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—RESCUERS PULLED more bodies from the shell of the truck-bombed Marriott Hotel in Pakistan's capital on Sunday, pushing the death toll from one of the country's worst-ever terrorist strikes to 53, including the Czech ambassador.

The hotel, a favorite spot for foreigners and the Pakistani elite—and a previous target of militants...still smoldered from a fire that raged for hours after the previous day's explosion, which also wounded more than 250 people.

The targeting of the American hotel chain came at a time of growing anger in the Muslim nation over a wave of cross-border strikes on militant bases in Pakistan by US forces in Afghanistan.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, although suspicion fell on al-Qaeda and the Pakistani Taliban. Analysts said the attack served as a warning from Islamic militants to Pakistan's new civilian leadership to stop cooperating with the US-led war on terror.

Rescue teams searched the blackened hotel room by room on Sunday. But the suspension never remained high, and fires were still being put out in some parts. Officials said the main building could still collapse.

"The building's structure is dangerous," said Malik Ashraf Imam, a senior civil defense official. "It consumed too much heat and shook."

Khalid Hussain Abbasi, a rescue official, confirmed that six new bodies had been found, but would not say if any belonged to foreigners. He said he expected more charred remains to be discovered.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told reporters on Sunday that the death toll had reached "about 53."

Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said Czech Ambassador Ivo Jelinek was among the dead.

At least one American also died in the attack, according to the US state department. Officials in Pakistan said at least 21 foreigners were among the wounded, including Britons, Germans, Americans and several people from the Middle East.

TV footage showed at least two bodies partially visible from the wrecked facade on Sunday morning. Outside, the hotel was surrounded by combat vehicles and debris.

The bomb went off close to 8 p.m. on Saturday when the restaurant's name would have been packed with Muslim diners breaking their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The blast left a vast crater some 10 meters deep in front of the main building, and caused guests on Sunday to marvel the gaping hole for residents.

The bombing came just hours after President Asif Ali Zardari made his first address to Parliament, just over a kilometer away from the hotel.

Witnesses and officials said the dump truck exploded about 50 meters away from the hotel at two heavy metal barriers blocking the entrance. The explosion reverberated throughout Islamabad and shattered windows hundreds of meters away.

Malik told The Associated Press it was unclear who was behind the attack. But authorities had received intelligence three nights before terrorists linked to Zardari's address to Parliament and consider had been tightened, he said.

The attack drew condemnation from around the world, including the United States, which has pressured Pakistan to do more to wipe out militant bases on its side of the Afghan border. Washington worries about Taliban and al-Qaida fighters using Pakistan as a training, recruiting and regrouping ground to aid the insurgency in Afghanistan.

US President George W. Bush said the attack was "a reminder of the ongoing threat faced by Pakistan, the United States, and all those who stand against violent extremism."

A recent series of suspected US missile strikes and a new American ground assault in Pakistan's northwest have signaled Washington's impatience with Pakistan's efforts to clear out militants. But the cross-border operations have drawn protests from the Pakistani government, which warned they would fan militancy.

Rawalpindi researcher Ersan Kohlmann told the AP that the attack was almost certainly the work of either al-Qaeda or the Pakistani Taliban. AP

INVESTIGATORS comb for evidence on the morning after an explosion from a truck bomb left a vast crater some 10 meters deep in front of the Marriott Hotel. The casualties included 250 people who were wounded.

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We're not out yet, warns Pumaren

By Cedrill P. Tejon

FRANZ PUMAREN WATCHED "A MONSTER" GOBBLE up La Salle in Game 1 of the UAAP men's basketball finals. But college basketball's most decorated coach believes that it will take more than that for the Ateneo Blue Eagles to swallow the Archers whole.

"We may be down but [we're] not out," Pumaren warned. After Mapúa hammered out a 69-61 victory in the season-Ultimate that put the Eagles ahead in the short Fortress to the UAAP men's basketball crown.

With star playmaker Dixie Vio and top defender Nonoy Baclao hobbled by foul troubles, Ateneo turned to prized rookie Rabeh Al-Hussaini and its band of role players last night to take Game 1.

Al-Hussaini proved unstoppable on his way to scoring a game-high 22 points in a performance Coach Andrew Bland has worthy as the top contender for the Most Valuable Player award.

Pumaren acknowledged that Al-Hussaini kept the Archers' he could only watch helplessly while the 6-foot-6 freestyle flashed his undersized frontline.

"Rabeh had a monster game today," Pumaren said.

But Pumaren thinks it was the Archers' inability to neutralize their possession after having 23 Ateneo turnovers that did them in.

"Obviously, we didn't bring out A-game today. We couldn't convert on our possessions," said the five-time UAAP champion coach after the Archers shot a miserable 28.6 percent from the field.

Rookie Ito JV Gulo, who finished with 20 points and Reo Manzi-holay who had 17, are other Archers finished in double digits. They were also outrebounded, 44-40 (and although they had 19 points off Ateneo miscues, they only had two second-chance points.

"I'm still confident. It takes two wins to win the series and we just need some toughness down the stretch to take Game 2 on Thursday," he added.

Rookie of the year frontrunner Ryan Buenafe yanked up the scoring slack for reliever Tiu to drive his team of both and after 12 points in the first half to go with his 11 rebounds and five assists.

"It just so happened that our veteran were in foul trouble," said Buenafe, a go-to-guy during his high-school heyday days with San Sebastian. "It was just like in high school. I really intended to step up. We never stop determined to win."

ATTACKED Ellis Salmon (right) tries to shoot off La Salle's Mark Villanueva. EDGAR SALGUERO

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Economic crash sends Pacquiao flying back home

WORRIED DEPOSITOR Manny Pacquiao

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY PACQUIAO ARRIVED RETURNED in the country last night, reportedly concerned about how the economic crash suffered by several banks and investment firms is affecting his multi-million-dollar savings and investments.

A Philboxing.com report said Pacquiao left his Wild Card training camp in Los Angeles after barely a week of training for his Dec. 6 megafight with Oscar De La Hoya at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

The hasty move caught former manager and now close adviser Rod Nazario by surprise. Nazario was one of the people who took Pacquiao to the airport on a Los Angeles flight last Sunday.

Blackhood Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is also very close to Pacquiao, said whatever the Filipino icon's reasons in coming back home "must be very important."

Pacquiao reportedly wants to personally make sure that his money in the banks are secured and not adversely affected by the crisis that began in the United States but has been felt all over the world, including here.

Philboxing said that Pacquiao is to immediately fly back to the US to resume his training for the fight, which could earn him an estimated $25 million—the biggest ever in his career.

Close confidantes that "Pinkie" failed wan out of touch, while Pacquiao associate Jake Jones didn't return calls made by the bayoan.

Meanwhile, Nazario yesterday assailed the move of the World Boxing Council to sanction an interim championship elimination for the Filipino champ's WBC lightweight crown.

"First say they do that when Manny hasn't relinquished the title yet," Nazario told the bayoan.

Armando Simon Cruz of the United Boxers will fight Antonio Casillas of Mexico tonight in Monterrey, Mexico, according to fightnews.com.

Nazario said the period a disruption is allowed to defend a title is one year. Pacquiao surrendered the crown Board Gerad Ehita on June 28.

"You sanction an interim champ, ending if the champion is dead, sick or incapacitated," said Nazario. "Pacquiao is still the WBC lightweight champion even if he loses to De La Hoya."

Reports said the winner of Santa Cruz-Casillas fight will face WBC No. 1 contender Edwin Valero—if Valenzuela is the interim title fight in December.

Dennis nips Wang, nails 9-ball plum

STILL WORLD NO. 1 Dennis Orcollo shows his trophy and prize check.

WORLD NO. 1 DENNIS ORCOLLO MADE DOUBLES ARCH RIVAL YAMS CHENG-shun, 9-1, in the semifinals and then subdued another Taiwanese, Wang Heng-hsiang, 11-9, in the title duel to rule the prestigious leg of the Guinness 9-Ball Tour 2008 Sunday at the Emiria Hotel in Guangzhou, China.

The four earned Orcollo the $15,000 ($705,000) top purse, and a shot in the Grand Finals on Oct. 24 to 26 in Jakarta, where the champion will win $50,000.

"Wang was really a tough opponent, but I was confident and ready throughout the tournament," said the 29-year old Orcollo. "I'm happy for beating players like Yang and Wang, who are among the best cue artists in the world."

Wang settled for the runner-up prize worth $6,000. He made it to the finals by edging out former world champion and previous leg winner Alex Pagulayan, 9-8, in the semifinals.

Only the top 10 players in the Tour's Order of Merit will qualify for the Grand Finals and a qualifying spot in the WPA World Pool Championship.

On the hill to 10-7, Orcollo blew a chance to close out the match as he failed to pocket the 1-ball on a seemingly easy try, allowing Wang to win the rack.

The Taiwanese ace then banked the 10th rack and Wang converted on a 1-9 combination to narrow the gap, 10-9.

But the Taiwanese failed to bust the match in the next rack, banging an errant on the 1-ball and allowing Orcollo to close out the set.

Pagulayan left short of a second consecutive leg victory.

With the match deadlocked at 9-all, Pagulayan, who already made the Grand Finals by winning in Singapore, had a golden opportunity to win as he had the break in the final rack.

His break, however, set up a foul license on the 2-ball and forced him to pull possession following a push shot. Wang then made a ruby bank shot that pocketed the 2-ball in the right corner pocket.

Luck was simply on the side of the Taiwanese as he recovered on an almost similar bank shot, this time on the 3-ball, before clearing out the rack and clinching the first spot in the championship match of the six-city tour organized by SIGPX STAR Sports.

"I did my best, but sometimes the breaks don't go your way," said Pagulayan, who was penalized in the sixth rack for going over the 40-second shot clock. "I honestly did not hear the referee say that there were 10 seconds left, so I took my time.

"If I wasn't penalized I would have probably beat up 5-2 in the race rack instead of 4-3."

Pagulayan settled for $3,500.

Make or break clash for Lions, Cardinals

LAST TIME! Aaron Aguilar
2:30 p.m. — Mapua vs. San Beda

By Cedrik F. Tapao

SAN BEDA, A TEAM TIPPED TO EVENTUALLY EXIT the competition for a third straight title, is teetering on the brink against the same squad that made the Lions look like a dime-dozen rusty team the NCAA season.

But Lions coach Frankie Lim is undaunted.

"The players have realized that there will be no excuse this time and they have to work hard," he said. "I know they have the heart to win."

Mapua, which was dealt a deflating 20-point blowout loss by the Lions on opening day, attempt to pull off an improbable turnaround when it takes on the two-time defending champions at 2:30 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

The winners of today's game will face Jose Rizal U in the best-of-three finals starting Wednesday. The Heavy Bombers nipped the Letran Knights, 69-61, in the other Final Four showdown Friday.

It wasn't supposed to be like this for the Red Lions. Not after they topped the elimination phase and avoided all complications with an 11-3 slate.

The Cardinals were also given little chance to be in this position, after falling to 5-5 in the second round. But they gained the Final Four playoffs, where they turned the tide into rebellion Sept. 10-14.

And playing their second sudden-death game in three days, the Cardinals frustrated the Lions with their slow, deliberate style for a 63-51 win Friday.

Nigerian dominoes Sam Ekwe has been the center of attention for the Lions in a roller-coaster week that saw him reportedly get picked up by police for questioning on alleged game-fixing and get selected for the Most Valuable Player award for the second time.

Ekwe has been struggling lately scoring just four points in each of the Lions' last two outings.

Mapua coach Leo Isaac believes the pressure is on the Lions, whom they beat, 73-68, in the second round.

"The pressure is on them now," said Isaac, a former Ateneo Blue Eagle. "We players are confident."

PBA names RP five coach today

By Manong R. Castillo

SEVES

THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, which has been massively criticized for the omission of the national five over the last few years, is expected to announce today the name of the NP coach, among other things.

Commissioner Sonny Barrios will make the announcement this morning at the league offices.

Sources, though, warned all his usual phones and refused to answer text messages.

The PBA, or its commissioner for that matter, has always had the privilege of naming the national coach.

Chot Reyes, now coach of Talk 'N Text, handled the last RP team that participated in the Olympic qualifiers, getting a wave of absence from his former team, Ian Miguel, which also helped

bankroll the program.

Sources say Reyes, Red Bulls King Owaie and former NP team head coaches Tim Cone of Alaska and Jong Dichoso of Barangay Ginebra head the list of candidates.

Like in the previous PBA-backed teams, the coach also comes up with the program on how to run the team, which the commissioner relies to the League's 2012 Olympian.

In a related development, whose ing on the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas Inc.'s petition against the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines will take place at a Manila Regional Trial Court today.

The hearing is on the recommendation of the courts to speak an earlier restraining order obtained by the BAP prohibiting the SBP from discriminating as the rightful basketball body in the country.

NCA six-stag derbies slated at two venues

THE NATIONAL COCKFIRE ASSOCIATION (NCA) will hold two of the season's most anticipated cockfighting derbies this month and next month at different venues.

The first NCA Big Derby is slated this Friday at the Pasay Cockpit, with the second derby scheduled Oct. 28 at Ynares Center.

In each Big Derby, 20 of each participant's three cocks will vie for the championship. Only stags screened and branded by the Gallodrome organizations, NCBA, GI Pagba, LGBA and Bakdolan will be accepted.

Before brandishing on the day of the fight, the stags will be screened by Johnny Jalandoni and Boy Sales to make sure that the birds meet rules. The NCA management has the option to reject any entry which does not meet the NCA's requirements.

See how punches fly

ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ser Sarmenta

(Inirun Around, our journalist Ser Sarmenta brings his sound sporting insights to the business-as-unusual row starting today. Sarmenta is also an assistant professor at the Department of Communication of the Ateneo de Manila University.—Ed)

ARE YOU OVER THE THOUGHT THAT Oscar De La Hoya versus Manny Pacquiao was a) not going to happen or all, b) a dream or none, or c) nothing but a prizefight?

Well, the fight is a go, no matter what we may think right now.

Surprises and more teasing the storm, ingly impossible are a staple in boxing. What would be the fun in all this if nobody [illegible] the Thrilla in Manila, would happen or the Ali-Liston Collision in 1970?

Or that Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield or George Foreman would still be fighting long after they were supposed to have retired?

De La Hoya-Pacquiao, in all its seeming impossibility of going to happen, is even less expected than it was on pushing through. And then the negotiation kinks were ironed out and now it's all systems go.

Golden Boy Promotion and Top Rank will try to find angles to make this appetizing in fight fans everywhere. The interesting problem here is that De La Hoya and Pacquiao are very good boxers who fight cleanly and don't trash-talk to build up a fight. Finding something for De La Hoya and Pacquiao to really dislike about each other will be, at best, difficult.

Maybe Freddie Roach's line about De La Hoya "not being able to pull the trigger any more" was all that this fight needed to make it happen.

* * *

So what is left to talk about, aside from De La Hoya's height and [illegible] the advantage that concerns Pacquiao fans? Training should not be a problem because both are certified hard workers, and the weight angle might be intriguing but you wonder how that battle will make the grade.

Maybe attention should shift to the skill the two will bring to the ring.

Here's what would be key: Previous Pacquiao foes have sweated in sparring or videotape sessions trying to find ways to neutralize his power. They think they have it figured out until that moment when the target actually hits them. MORE! It's power that fries like Larios, Marquez, Morales and Diaz really felt.

Boxing, like Gerry Ilarde, a multi-banker and manager who is a regular at Hacienda's fights abroad, says that De La Hoya will fight power.

"Kaya nga nagsasanay sina Ariel Asis at Manny yung laban niya yung mapapanatiliin niyang nung fly ayo nag super-bantam against Reynante Jarell. El yung Jarell, kaman ele bay Elite Elite ele will feel it because Manny brings his power when he adds on weight. Like when he was a flyweight and became a superbantam against Reynante Jarell. Jarell was 8[illegible] Same thing happened against Diaz."

* * *

De La Hoya has power in the past, though, that he can take big punches. Oscar Dindial, who has called many of the game's fights in the United States, feels that Pacquiao's big chance is "namaan niya ng power si Oscar. Oscar was the chin."

But that could be a bit of problem because of what Chino calls "the time it will take for the punches to travel" since Pacquiao will be aiming at a taller target and De La Hoya will be able to see it coming.

And that's where Pacquiao's speed should be used to the max and could be his unusual edge against Oscar. Pacquiao is relatively so well against an opponent that also throws heavy leather.

Check out the punches, especially in the early going and as the fight progresses. Whose duty level will decide the fight and would at first it is really happening.

SPORTSWATCH

PCAP stagfest resumes today in Makati

EIGHT FIGHTS OR MORE ARE ON TAP TODAY IN THE PINOY COCKERS' dissolution of the Philippines (PCAP) 6-stag derby series featuring one-on-one duels among Metro Manila's top cockers at the Makati Coliseum.

Frontrunner John Capinpin, with his entry JCAP Bravo, tries to pull away from the pack in the PCAP Slaughter of the Year race after tallying nine points in the last two staglets.

The other top contenders are Allan Tan, Lope Dimaculangan and Tong Rasmio.

Round 3 of LGBA derby gets going

THE THIRD ROUND OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) 7-stag derby series kicks off today at San Juan Coliseum with 80 fights backed by taipanese Superbeats, Lakpan Drug Inc. and Thunderbird.

LGBA members enter battle for equality in the previous two rounds as Dan "J" MORE gets a last chance today to enter the championship round. said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Eighteen participants with 2-0 win-loss dules have qualified as he including Rudie Ruiz, Rey Briones and Ronnie Nabong Richard Pantoc.

GMA WITH SPORTS EXECS President Macapagal-Arroyo poses with sports officials during the recent birthday party of two-time Olympian and shooting president Art Macapagal at the Manila Yacht Club. Macapagal, half-brother of the President, is outgoing chief of the Philippine Olympic Committee. Among the officials who shared light moments with Ms Arroyo were PSC chair Ronie Recimo, taekwondo's Rubern Bermejo, boxing's Cito Dayrit, chess' Prospero Pichay, billiards' Ernie Pajarito, women's Francis Chan, squash's Remo Ribano and gymnastics' Danny Lopez.

Jeff Furyk celebrates a birdie on the 17th hole. AP

RYDER CUP

US golfers hold off Europe rally

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY— THE UNITED STATES EARNED ITS FIRST LEAD going in the final day of the Ryder Cup since 1993 by holding off Europe's comeback on a gripping Saturday.

The Americans will take a 9½ lead into the final round of 12 singles, giving them a fighting chance to finally arrest away the 17-inch (44-centimeter) gold chalice from Europe.

"The golf has been incredible," US captain Paul Azinger said. "My stomach is just churning."

The Europeans missed a chance to close within a point when Robert Karlsson carded a 12-foot (4-meter) par saver at the 18th hole in the final fourball match of the day. Karlsson and Henrik Stenson halved their match with Phil Mickelson and Hunter Mahan.

Ian Poulter's eyes nearly popped out of his sockets after making a 30-inch birdie putt that looked like 30 feet. Poulter screwed on a sonorous, resonant expletive, but he was the only European to play all four matches and he delivered three vital points.

American Steve Stricker showed why his selection for his first Ryder Cup was easy. His match looked like a lost cause until Stricker escaped from the woods and sank a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a halve.

One minute the Americans looked as if they might build their largest lead in nearly 20 years. The next minute, it looked as though they might not have the lead at all.

"It's a bumpy road at times, and it is, to get to a victory," European captain Nick Faldo said. "So you come all the road a bit, and we're back on the road again now."

Europe has built overwhelming leads in the last two Cups, eventually toting the champagne on Saturday. But not this time.

"It was amazing golf," Azinger said. "It's amazing because there's so much pressure here and so much tension and you see so pressure situations (in) less performances in sports."

The Americans need 7½ points from the 12 matches on Sunday to win the Ryder Cup for the first time since 1999. The intensity should remain sizable, with Anthony Kim and Sergio Garcia leading off, two explosive players in their 20s.

Mahan put two of his youngest players at the end—last Saturday's Ryder Cup debut. Ben Curtis, and double major winner Padraig Harrington as the anchor against Chad Campbell.

The order Azinger and Faldo gave some head-(like) on the grassy slopes surrounding the 10th green at Valhalla on the final match wrapped up the fairway, the sixth time in two days that a match came down to the final hole.

Mahan, unbeaten in all four matches in his Ryder Cup debut, hit his approach to the collar of the green for an eagle attempt from 20 feet. Karlsson followed with a second shot in the (an 8 that nestled 12 feet behind the hole.

Both narrowly missed. Both teams rebuked.

"That's an unbelievable two days," Poulter said. "I think we got a huge piece of momentum today and the guys are pumped—groups, people pumped. This is what the Ryder Cup is all about."

Some of the Americans smiled found that out.

Boo Weekley nosed down his celebration until after his great shots, and closer verse phrase Kenneth Ferrie (8 Hideun delivered a putt that put the US vases up over Stenwood and Steve Hansen, but Weekley stole the show.

He holed a 25-foot putt off the back of the 14th green for a 2-up lead, then hit a bunker shot on 2 feet on the next hole. Asked when he would sink that shot among the top 10 of his career, Weekley replied, "I realize No. 9. I had done eight holes to one.

They were on the 17th hole when Stenwood lost for the first time in six years in a Ryder Cup match, an unbeaten streak of 12 matches that left him tied with Arnold Palmer and more disappointed for the races than himself. AP

US keeps Davis Cup bid alive with doubles win

MADRID, SPAIN—MARDY FISH and Mike Bryan quickly got over the early jitters that cost them the opening set and restored the United States to a doubles victory Saturday that cut Spain's lead to 2-1 in the Davis Cup semifinals.

The Americans also rallied to beat Fernando Verdasco and Feliciano Lopez, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, 4-6, 6-4, en route to give the US its first point after being swept in singles play Friday.

"Obviously it was a little-weird-mine. But we finished it off," Bryan said. "I admired the way Mardy stayed with me. That kept me up, he kept me positive."

Top-ranked Rafael Nadal can clinch Spain's ninth Davis Cup appearance by beating Andy Roddick in reverse singles on Sunday. David Ferrer of Spain plays Sam Querrey in the other match.

"I'll be relief given as a big shot of adrenaline, gives us a chance going into Sunday so we're excited about it," US captain Patrick McEnroe said.

The winning team will face either Argentina or Russia, who are squaring off in Buenos Aires. AP

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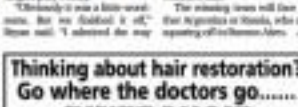

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Billiards woes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SOMETHING'S MISSING WRONG IN the Philippine billiards scene.

After the formation of the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines (BMPAP) early last February many of the country's most outstanding billiards players are not taking part in this year's inaugural World 10-Ball Championship starting Sept. 29 at the PICC.

"It's sad to see great billiards players like former world champions like Ronnie Alcano, Alex Pagulayan and Efren "Bata" Reyes not world No. 1 Dennis Orcollo competing from the tournament. They'd done so much for us," said a disheard pool follower. "How will people feel to watch the event played by foreign players when our own top players are not participating?"

Held under the auspices of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines headed by president Simeon Raya'o, the event will be promoted by Raya Sports' Ben Macabenta, who is also BMCP chair.

* * *

Why did the country's top players shy away from the tournament?

The BMPAP players are reportedly very unhappy with the way their sport is being handled by billiards czar Ato. As a matter of fact, this group of disgruntled players, representing a virtual cream of the crop, announced its membership with the BMCP and vowed not to take part in all events organized and promoted by Macabenta.

Composed of professionals, the BMPAP subsequently registered with the Games and Amusements Board, the ruling body for pro-sports.

On the issue of the absence of the country's billiards icons from the 10-ball championship, Macabenta said, "It would be good if everybody would take part."

Competing in the $100,000 10-ball event, which stakes a lot paycheck of $100,000 for the champion, are reigning world 9-ball champion Daryl Peach of Ireland, Chinese-Taipei's Wu Chia-ching and two familiar faces in the local billiards scene: hold-headed Ralf Souquet of Germany and Johann Archer of the United States.

Spearheading the Philippine campaign are former Asian member titlist Marlon Manalo, Doha Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and rising star Jeffrey de Luna.

* * *

What caused the BMCP-BMPAP breakup?

The main reason why the BMPAP balked the WSCF is the latter's alleged abuse of power and lack of respect for BMPAP member players, notably Pagulayan and Alcano. An other reason is the alleged refusal of Macabenta's group to publicly account for the millions which he had received from the Players in staging the 2006 and 2007 World Pool Championship here.

In the case of Pagulayan, the former world champ was suspended from the Guinness Asian 9-Ball Tour without just cause. As a result, Pagulayan filed a libel case against Macabenta and Fajardo.

On the other hand, Alcano was similarly treated with disrespect when he was driven away from a qualifying tournament of the Guinness Asian 9-Ball Tour. With Alcano at that time were Marlon Manalo and Lee Van Corteza, also both veteran tournamentalists.

PBA holds badminton clic

THE PHILIPPINE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION will hold the 2008 Bing Pamen Youth cup Asian Age Group Badminton Championships starting Sept. 27 at the Dole ESB in Lipa, Batangas City.

Badminton players ages 10 years old and below are invited to join the tournament that aims to boost grass roots development of the sport in the country.

All entries must be submitted via fax or e-mail today. Entries can be faxed at (632) 300 1378 or e-mailed at jumbo_136@yahoo.com, philbadminton@gmail.com.

Online entry may also be done on www.badmintonasia.com.

For inquiries call (63) (02) 3362401 or (632) 7338881.

PFF officials grace PSA Forum

PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL FEDERATION (PFF) president Jose Mari Martinez and the Asian Football Confederation Vision Asia Team spearhead the guests list in this week's success of the PSA Forum at the Shakey's UP-Ayala branch.

Joining Martinez in the announcement for June 2009 Sports Radio 91.9 and sponsored by Shakey's, Accel, Binibeauregan and Angeles spa and Medicentral Clinic and Diagnostic Center is AFC Vision Asia Team director John Harden, who is currently in the country to assess the state of Philippine football and come up with a development plan to boost the sport here.

Also invited to be the PSA's public sports program are the organizers behind the 7th Asian Youth volleyball girls championship.

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MOLDEX

SPORTS

Que, Pucay sew up WC stint; Korea 1st

ARNOLD Que (left) celebrates with partner Marc Pucay after pocking out an No. 15.

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPPINES' ARNOLD QUE AND MARC PUCAY BOUNCED back from scary bogeys on the first two holes for a two-under-par 70 on Sunday and barged into the Omega Mission Hills World Cup behind winner South Korea here.

Ban Jung-seon and Kim Hyung-sung shot a superb 66 in the final round four-some to Kim Wonsi Golf and Country Club to top the Resi International Challenge qualifier by three strokes over the Filipinos, the overnight leaders, with 268.

Italy's Francesco Molinari and Edoardo Molinari closed with a 68 for 271 and pipped the fuddled Nigerian duo of Oyewumi Gbenga and Udoh Andrew Ochiba for the third and final ticket to the World Cup in China in November.

Host Malaysia and Singapore finished joint fifth to miss the boat after rounds of 69 and 71, respectively.

It will be Que's maiden trip to the World Cup and Pucay's second after he also qualified back in 2006 at Ayia Beyazi.

"I feel very happy to have made it again," said Pucay, whose seven birdies carried the Filipinos to a three-stroking 201 after Saturday's football home-field format. "I would like to thank Angelo who carried me today as he pulled off a lot of great shots. He played solid."

Que was also sure the reason on his season keeps getting better following his stint at the Philippine Open on the Asian Tour earlier in the year and a maiden appearance at the British Open.

"There was a bit of pressure as we knew Italy and Nigeria were making a move," said Que. "I told Marc that we weren't hitting it bad and to just keep hitting greens.

"It's big to qualify for the World Cup. I've been lucky enough this year as I made it to the British Open through qualifying and we've qualified for the World Cup now. It feels really good."

The Koreans were thrilled to qualify for their number World Cup appearance after a superb performance in which they sank six birdies against no bogeys for a two-under-par 286 under trial.

"We're very happy," said Ban, who is a winner on the Asian Tour. "We are looking forward now to China. I think we've got a good chance to play well."

The Molinari brothers downed their class with a 66, which included an eagle on No. 7, and felt sorry for the Nigerians.

"It was tough in the end but I think we deserved it," said Francesco. "It wasn't easy coming all the way here and dealing with the jetlag and different conditions. You have to feel sorry for Nigeria as they played very well. We played with them on Friday and they played fantastic."

Full-field scores

MOST BEMEDALLED Christine Grace Tan of Batangas in action in the 200 breaststroke.

Golden deluge for Laguna

By Jane Meneses

LOS BAÑOS—A 100-gold rush in aquatics and four scored sports powered host Laguna province to a second straight overall crown in the filed Southern Tagalog leg of the 3rd Philippine Olympic Festival here Sunday.

Laguna collected 39 gold medals in the pool on top of 28 victories in wrestling, muay kuratedo and arnis on the final day of competition for 100 gold, 80 silver and 68 bronze medals.

Batangas finished a distant second with 18 gold medals in the pool, while Quezon province settled for third with 14 golds.

Swimmer Benjie Iturbe poured in nine topped by prolific performances in the 200-meter butterfly, 100-m breaststroke, 200-m freestyle, 200-m breast, 400-m free, 200-m individual medley, 1500-m freestyle and 200-m free relay on the last two days of festivities.

The Liceo de Sta Rita high school senior earlier bagged golds in the 100-m free, 100-m back and 400-m IM in the boys' 15-and-over class at the Ona Aquatics Center here.

Benja, who captured seven golds in the PSC-sanctioned Chooper's Cup last June, a formidable swimmer can also included Yuan Andrew Matin, Joshua Gaston and Catherine Bernard, a future junior Christine Grace Tan of Batangas didn't have.

The 15-year-old Tan from Lipa City emerged as the most bemedalled athlete for the second time in a row after raking home 12 golds, matching the number she won last year.

Tan also landed a one in the 400-m free, 50-m free, 200-m IM, 200-m back, 200-m fly, 400-m free, 100-m breast, 100-m fly, 200-m breast and 200-m free to go with twelve wins in the 100-m free, 100-m back and 400-m IM.

With Tan's achievements in the pool and 11 gold more from karatedo, Batangas wound up with a second best 30-11-11 medal tally.

Matin picked up the golds in the 100-m free, 200-m IM, 50-m free, 100-m breast and 200-m free relay for boys' 13-15 years old while Castro and Bernard carried four gold medals each in the 13 and under age brackets.

Asian Age Secretary Laguna's treasure chest of medals with Katherine Sessoms grabbing three golds.

Heavyweight Reynaldo Mercene, bantam Jaybee Gonzaga and lightweight Celeste Dacula hosted the field in their respective weight categories to the meet's senior division.

BUSINESS

Editor Raul D. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nuñeza

Trade gap seen swelling to $16.5B in '09

Bangko Sentral says high oil prices to bloat imports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S TRADE DEFICIT WILL LIKELY SWELL to about $16.5 billion next year or about a quarter higher than the projected gap this year on expectations that global oil prices would stay at high levels, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest estimates.

In 2009, export earnings are expected to rise at a faster pace of 6 percent to $54.4 billion compared with the 4-percent projected growth this year.

On the other hand, the BSP sees imports expanding by 10 percent compared with the 12-percent growth projected for this year. The estimated value of imports next year is $70.9 billion.

The projected trade gap for next year, higher than the $15.2 billion trade deficit expected this year, assumes that global prices would remain above $100 a barrel next year even as the resulting increase in the import bill would be partially offset by an increase in the volume of exports.

The Asian Development Bank last week urged developing Asia to brace for a prolonged period of high and volatile oil prices as the region's economic growth could keep prices above $100 a barrel until at least 2020.

"If you look at the assumptions that we used in the formulation of

TRADE /B2

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- **SM says sales** of Edsa condo project remain brisk /B4
- **Debt payments share** to GDP going down /B6
- **OFW remittances seen** to hit $18.3B in 2009 /B7
- **Seaoil inks $30-M** diesel supply deal /B12

RP rising as major tourist haven

THE PHILIPPINES, AGAIN "MUST-hype secret" known by tourists, would likely sustain at least a 10-percent growth in tourist arrivals and receipts this year through 2018, stock brokerage CLSA Asia-Pacific said in a recent study.

"Natural attractions and rebranding efforts have enabled the Philippines into one of the most exciting home holiday destinations," according to a special report written by CLSA analyst Alfred Ty. She named that the country was now carving a niche in a number of tourism segments, including cruise, medical, education and retirement tourism.

"In spite of the frequent travel advisories that have dominated headlines across the globe, the Philippines is a wonderful country to visit with 7,107 islands to choose from, the weather is warm year-round and the population is outgoing and friendly. With a spectacular, affordability of easy packages makes the Philippines an appealing destination for travelers," Ty said.

In three years, the analyst projected that annual arrivals should climb

RP RISING /B2

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱46.222 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 18, 2009

STOCK MARKET

(Previous market report on Page B4)

Market seen calming down

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE STOCK MARKET MAY FEEL A LULL this week after the frenzy selling the past

MARKET /B4

PLDT smeNation Count on me, partner. | Page 01

FIT to a Tee

SMEs in local fashion are at a global crossroads

Subsidies to NFA reached ₱23B in first 8 months

By Michelle V. Rarra

SUBSIDIES GRANTED TO LOSING state-owned firm National Food Authority reached P23 billion in the first eight months of the year, according to documents from the budget department.

The subsidy was used to pay the NFA's ₱6 billion rice importations.

The subsidy granted to the NFA from January to August represented 7.2 percent of the P312 billion that the national government allocated for the state-run firm for the entire year.

The government had programmed only P17 billion worth of the subsidy for the NFA this year but finance officials said the higher cost of imported rice and the growing domestic demand for the commodity required an increase in the subsidy.

Ideally, state-owned firms should be financially independent of the national government and should even be remitting dividends to state coffers. However, the NFA incurs huge trading losses by importing rice at a higher price and selling it lower, forcing the government to shoulder its one obligation by providing a subsidy.

It has subsidy, however, is not given in cash. The budget department treats a document to a recipient state-owned firm such as the NFA, which then uses it to pay taxes and import duties.

Although the government does not shell out cash to giving tax subsidy to the NFA, it loses potential cash collection in the form of income taxes.

On top of the tax subsidy, billions of pesos worth of cash subsidy is also given to the NFA to support its trading operations.

The NFA had said it should not be criticized for its losses, saying these were brought by its mandate to ensure a steady supply of affordable rice. Fulfilling its mandate was one way for the government to help the poor cope with rising prices of food and other commodities, the NFA said.

Demand for NFA rice increased this year because of the rising prices of commercial rice, which has become too expensive for some poor households.

The Philippine imports 10 percent of its rice requirements. Although imports comprise a small portion of its total demand for rice, the Philippines is still the world's biggest rice importer.

The NFA is entrusted to move trading losses anywhere between P20.5 billion and P40.1 billion this year due to the surge in rice prices. The estimated deficit will be covered by new subsidies and borrowings.

Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto earlier proposed that the government, instead of subsidizing the NFA, simply give more direct cash assistance to poor families. Recto said cash transfers to the poor were a wiser way to help them cope with the rising cost of living.

Shouldering the high cost of rice

The money meltdown and you

THE US GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE MOVED decisively... many say uncharacteristically... over the weekend to forestall a conflagration in the global financial markets, but no one is betting that happy days are here again and it's time for business as usual. This much we should be able to tell from the roller-coaster ride that the stock markets have gone through in the past week. Once again, the wild swings on Wall Street show us how artificial and fickle is the behavior of the financial markets can be, quite clearly more than of the "real" markets, otherwise known as the economy of bricks and mortar, of food and farms, or of cars and machines. And so, while the tiny minority of Filipinos who have investments in the stock markets or in the broader financial market may be justifiably jittery over the prospect of losing large handfuls of money, the rest of us can probably be even more cool (or worry unnecessarily, right? Let us see.

NO FREE LUNCH

Carlito P. Hubilla

Where it came from

All financial market transactions (save perhaps for pure pyramid scams) are rooted in some economic activity or services. That we can't really say that the financial market turmoil is supreme and detached from the real markets that matter directly to us. "Burning bubbles" occur in the market when the financial transactions get way ahead of the transactions in real goods and services on which they are based. The current "sky-high bubble" near the top of the millennium happened because the several expansion potential of internet-based businesses was way overrated by the financial investors who made a mad rush to put their money into it – until reality set in.

Similarly, the US subprime crisis happened because too much money was put in the hands of Americans who in the first place never had the inherent capability to buy the houses that they bought. Who put the money in their hands? It was people with deep pockets, most of whom did not even know they were doing so. And this was because the complex system of the banking industry system has become now makers is possible for the original irresponsible lenders in these unviable home buyers to pass on...and bids—the toxic ish to others. Meanwhile, the unnerving risk was never directly visible because home prices were constantly moving up—product up, of course, by the greater lure of increasingly unviable home buyers who were being lent money by the system to do so nonetheless. Indeed, it looked like a great investment to anyone buyers now to buy something that is rising in value.

Moral hazard

But it was in every sense a pyramid. Some buyers who came in earlier in the game were all right for as long as many others were still getting in at the base, constantly raising demand for land therefore prices of houses. Obviously, that could not happen indefinitely and the market will eventually run out of enough new home buyers. As in any pyramid scheme, sooner or later there will no longer be any base on which to build the pyramid, and the entire pyramid collapses.

The sad part of it all was that the financial players involved—the banks, the mortgage companies, the investment houses, and even the credit rating agencies—must have understood this and realized that the subsidies and cash assistance to poor families in the Philippines is an economically viable option just weren't sustainable. They all knew that something had to give at some point, and yet they just kept on going. Why? Because the profits and huge salaries were being made all throughout the process, of course. That is the essence of this huge industry that thrives on "playing with" and gaining other people's money. But more than that, they also had faith that Uncle Sam would not let the industry down when the inevitable day of reckoning comes. The financial system, after all, is too vital to be allowed by the government to collapse. The White House's most recent moves once again reinforced this belief, that time and again has moved people to do irresponsible things—what economists call "moral hazard" that is so prevalent in free-market systems. The same moral hazard led to the Asian financial crisis 10 years ago, and the many other financial orders the world has seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. And so once again, it is ultimately the common taxpayers who end up paying for the excesses of the casino players.

Fearing for itself

For the average Filipino, the question is: What can we learn from it, and what do we do in the face of all this? Let us examine the implications. If the banks, insurance companies and investment houses you put your money in had placed our stocks of it directly or indirectly in such failed investments via the toxic gang giants like Lehman Brothers and AIG, then they may have trouble giving you back your money, much less the profits you had expected from it. But the Bangko Sentral and the banks themselves assure us that the few hundreds of million dollars that our financial institutions had placed in such investments are too tiny relative to their total resources to have any effect other than just a dent, even if they were to lose it all. And with the lifeline the US government is throwing, a total loss on these failed investments is highly unlikely. So please don't rush out and withdraw all your money, because if too many people do that, it is that panic—and not the Wall Street meltdown—that will do your bank in. As for ours like these, the saying "there is nothing to fear but fear itself" is quite apt. Meanwhile, we should remember that it is bricks and money, food and farms, and even steel machines that make the economy run and create the jobs and incomes to sustain our lives. And for as long as people need to eat and be clothed, housed, and educated, and have some entertainment, these things are not about to disappear before our eyes (for any money put into subprime or other loans could.

(Comments: carlitohubilla@yahoo.com)

PSALM to re-bid Limay plant next month

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES Management Corp. will be pinning the 620-megawatt decommissioned Limay coal-based-cycle power plant on the auction block again following a failed bidding conducted earlier in the week.

In an invitation to bid to be published Wednesday, PSALM said interested entities had until 11 a.m. of Oct. 7 to submit their letters of interest. They would then have to enter into a confidentiality agreement and undertaking and pay a non-refundable participation fee of $2,000.

Preliminary requirements should be in by Oct. 8.

Prospective investors are allowed to conduct due diligence on the generation asset from Sept. 22 to Oct. 21, 2009.

A pre-bid conference has been scheduled for Oct. 27, to give potential bidders a chance to clarify whatever issues they may have on the asset or on the bidding rules and procedures.

The bidding for the plant would take place on Dec. 14, 2009.

PSALM had earlier declared the Limay asset on a failure after only one bidder submitted the documentary deliverables before the deadline.

The Limay plant, commissioned in 1993, PSALM 24

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Wholesale reinvestment in agri needed–Irri

By Amy R. Remo

LAGUNA-BASED INTERNATIONAL Rice Research Institute has warned that failure to heavily invest in agriculture now could lead to a long-term crisis that would make the price spikes of 2008 a "mere ichip."

"Declining agricultural productivity and unrestrained growing demand have brought the world food situation to a crossroads," Irri said in a statement.

"In your prices of grains and other cereals have skyrocketed due to several global factors. Prices of rice have peaked to record high levels of more than $1,000 a ton in April as global stockpiles fell to their lowest levels in years while major rice exporting countries imposed export bans, which significantly limited the world's trade of the staple.

According to Irri, a "wholesale reinvestment in agricultural" was needed, which would include research to improved technologies, infrastructure development, and training and education of agricultural scientists and researchers.

The irish warning—also in line with calls from organizations such as the World Bank, the World Food Program and Asian Development Bank—was issued by members of the Irri board of trustees following their meeting last week.

"The global community needs to remember one key things. Irish, that growth in agricultural productivity is the only way to increase the supply of rice grains to enough affordable food. Several, that achieving this is a long term effort," Irri board chair Elizabeth Woods said.

"A year or two of extra funding for agricultural research is not enough. To create the improved technologies that stem the research and development pipeline, a sustained investment in agriculture is crucial," Woods explained.

RP rising as major . . .

From page B1

to 4.1 million and coconuts to 18.3 billion. This suggested that investor receipts as a percentage of the country's gross domestic product would be 3.4 percent in 2009-2014 from a low of only 1.9 percent in 2005.

"One of the most outstanding features of the Philippines is its diversity. Chinese, Spanish, American and other nationalities combine to create a rich, ethnic culture. English is widely spoken and the Philippines is ranked No. 3 globally in terms of percentage of population who speak English," the report said. Overall, people are very friendly and have a positive attitude toward foreigners who visit the country," Ivy explained.

Rebounding after years of stagnation, tourism arrivals hit an all-time high of 3.09 million in 2007, up 9 percent from the year before while receipts hit a record-high $4.09 billion, or 41 percent higher than in 2006.

Aside from the beautiful sites and destinations, the Philippines is an economically competitive, openly pro-of holiday destinations, Ivy said.

The analyst said the Philippine government was also following the right path to set together to draw more tourists to its "wealth of wonders" (WOW), as coined by former tourism secretary and actress Alicia Vargas. Despite terrorism, political instability and security have improved significantly while the national government was actively addressing major infrastructure bottlenecks, which should improve access and shift travel from across the country.

(Ian G. Cheng)

Trade gap seen swelling . . .

From page B1

the budget for 2009 and 2010, it's still between $113 to $123 a barrel (based on Dubai crude). That's assumes (with the ADB warning) but based on trends in the global oil market, it indicates that prices seem to be establishing a downtrend," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in a briefing.

Despite the pronouncement of the oil cartel Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries or Opec, Guinigundo noted that producers did not cut back on production.

"They were saying they will reduce by more than 5,000 barrels a day but that has yet to materialize. And of course the ongoing economic slowdown has resulted in lower demand for oil so this is good for managing inflation," he explained.

On the other hand, the higher export growth seen for 2009 was based on a steady rise in the trends in fall or future orders of electronic exports.

But the higher trade gap for next year—despite the slightly slower rise in import expenditures and the lower export growth—also factored in a decline in the prices of electronic products given continued competition among manufacturers across the globe.

The opening in the global commodity price

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US turmoil seen harder to fix than '97 Asia crisis

Asian banks need to be flexible in their response to US fallout

BANGKOK—THE ROOT CAUSES OF the financial turmoil in the United States are similar to the crisis that gripped Asia 11 years ago, but may be harder to fix, Thailand's central bank governor said on Saturday.

Speaking to Asian central bankers gathered in Bangkok for a weekend symposium, Bank of Thailand chief Tarisa Watanagase said Asian countries would need to be flexible in their response to the US crisis as its effects ripple around the world.

"In a glance, the root causes of both events are strikingly similar," Tarisa said in evoking memories of the 1997-98 Asian financial meltdown triggered by the devaluation of the Thai baht.

"Investors have taken excessively high risks, creating asset price bubbles, against a background of lax prudential and monetary policy" she said.

However, the crisis today is much more complex because it is unfolding in the world's biggest economy with the deepest and most sophisticated capital markets, Tarisa said.

"Given the increased complexity and magnitude of the current crisis, this calls into question whether the tools at hand for policymakers are adequate to ensuring economic stability, the mainstay of our mission as central bank governors," she said.

Tarisa said innovative methods were now needed to deal with the evolving challenges.

"For example, tax may not be able to just rely on using traditional solutions of raising interest rates to address rising inflation," she said.

Policy responses may include "prudential measures that could help cool down asset prices, which is a case in point of how monetary and supervisory policies can be interrelated."

The luncheon Asia, Australia and New Zealand (Seanz) Governors' Symposium, a three-day training seminar, was scheduled before the turmoil in the US banking system triggered panic on world stock markets.

Tarisa welcomed the plan laying down up by US authorities to buy the bad debts underwriting financial firms.

"It should be a better idea to resolve problems in US financial markets in a more sustainable and systematic manner, rather than dealing with them with piecemeal measures," she told reporters. "But we still need to look at the details."

Other participants declined to comment on the plan.

The 28-member group includes five central banks of Japan, China, Australia, India and several South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

It was set up in the 1970s to promote cooperation among central bankers in the region.

The collapse of investment bank Lehman Brothers and the $85 billion US government bailout of insurer AIG last week had knocked Asian banking stocks and prompted central banks to pump funds into strained money markets.

Commercial banks in Asia have seen their shares caught up in the downdraft, but their key budgets dodged the huge credit losses that had rocked Wall Street.

Tarisa said Asia in general had been hit by the US crisis.

"Some countries have compensative arrangements to phase the fasting out to a situation, such as currency swap arrangements and standby credits that each can take from the others," she said.

While the region has ample liquidity, the Asian Development Bank has warned that asset markets, particularly real estate, were vulnerable to shocks. Reuters

Even with relief plan, Wall St. still facing uphill climb

NEW YORK—PUBLICA CONFIDENCE that a huge $700 billion bailout plan will mop up billions of dollars of bad debt from bank balance sheets has lifted spirits, but on Wall Street will readily declare a new bull run for the stock market this week.

Their hopes are looking brighter than they did just days ago to without question. A week that began with the Dow tumbling 504 points to close—its second performance since markets reopened after the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001—ended with a sharp rally that left the Dow back in its biggest two-day rally since October 1987.

The rebound came as governments worldwide unveiled a series of steps to free credit markets from a deep freeze and prevent a run on assets, from stocks to money market mutual funds.

US and British authorities slapped temporary bans on short-selling, while the UK Treasury said it would use $50 billion to back money market mutual funds, traditionally considered as safe as cash, whose asset values fell below $1 a share.

Questions remain, however, about the size and scope of the measures, as well as their ability to contain a credit crunch that has kept global markets lurching from one crisis to another for more than a year.

"The bottom line is, it doesn't do anything to address the genesis of the whole problem, which is housing," said Bill Dunkerley, partner and chief market strategist at Bell Curve Trading. "The problem is the mortgages, that's the root problem. Housing prices will keep going down, and that means more bad loans, more write-downs, more pressure on bank balance sheets."

A sharp slide in US housing prices and a subsequent rise in delinquencies on home loans has created massive losses on mortgage-backed bonds that in recent years have spread across the global financial landscape.

That has left investors reluctant to get too excited about the implications of the Treasury's bold new steps.

"It's like having a beer smash and you go and get your chest cracked open and get it fixed. But the next morning, you're still hurting," said Warren Simpson of Stephens Capital management in Little Rock, Arkansas. "I think we're at the point where we're about to get shot, we're cracked open, but we're nowhere near healed up."

Stanzville said the Standard & Poor's 500 index would have to trade above 1,300 for at least a week and close above 1,290 to signal a sustained market rally.

"I want to see us close that hurdle before I feel the worst is over," he said. "I say nearly nothing in this arena-sphere. Two days ago, it looked like the world was coming to an end."

On Friday, the Dow Jones industrial average closed up 368.95 points, or 3.55 percent, at 11,360.44. The broader S&P 500's 500+ index advanced 46.57 points, or 4.00 percent, to 1,210.68. The Nasdaq Composite Index rose up 74.08 points, or 3.48 percent, to 2,371.00.

Whether stocks will have the ability to hold at those levels this week is far from clear. Some investors said the prospect of cash on short sales and lending support to the market on Friday that otherwise wouldn't have been there.

As Michael Steinhardt, author of the book "Financial Armageddon," put it this way on his blog on Friday: "Given that the rebound was explicitly triggered by the prospect of a dramatic and far-reaching government intervention, this alone should be a reason for pessimism. History suggests that the impact of such efforts tends to be relatively short-lived."

Indeed, strategists say many market participants will remain wary of taking on even minimal risk next week. The government's rescue plans may even seem finite to date.

"Now that people know money market funds are going to be safe, they may just be putting their money in there," said Stan Hurd, head of equity index/Market Investments in Cleveland, Ohio. "They may not feel they need to keep it in the stock market."

Economic data was likely to take a back seat to credit issues this coming week, investors said, as the market waits for more details about the Treasury's plans to buy up risky loans currently held behind closely. Reuters

EMPLOYEES leave the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) after a tumultuous week...A new ban on stock short sales to curb speculation and a Treasury plan to buy the troubled mortgage market bonds helped calm nervous traders and ease the risk of financial meltdown. —

On food versus fuel debate, no quick resolution is expected

ST. LOUIS—THE GOVERNMENT MANDATE for a more aggressive US policy to produce crop-based fuels is less than a year old, but it has spurred one of the biggest battles within the agricultural industry in decades.

The fight, which pits biofuel backers such as energy law signed in late 2007, set off a recent run to prices of corn and soybeans, the main crops used for bio-based fuels like ethanol. Farmers, and their lenders, applauded as demand exploded.

But that huge new crop demand from energy refiners also has choked off profits of food processors, from cereal makers to vegetable oil producers to the livestock growers. Dairy farmers and fish farms now fret soaring feed prices.

Food raw material prices have risen at rates that have alarmed economists, including the US Federal Reserve. In August, wholesale food prices were 8 percent above a year ago—the biggest jump since 1981.

Critics all cite the same source. The biofuels "craze" is a wrong-headed, shortsighted policy that has to change. That view had ample play on Friday at a roundtable discussion of experts at the annual Sujatech soybean industry conference.

"The last thing we've learned this as a food versus fuel debate is absolutely correct," Bill Lapp, president of advanced Economic Solutions and a consultant to food industries, said.

"Ultimately we are going to find out that it is going to be tough to find enough acres to meet all these demands."

The US energy bill mandated that biofuels production must bring roughly five-fold to 36 billion gallons by 2022. Some economically will be made from new cornstalk like straw and switchgrass. But many—especially in the last year—the law steered that a bigger portion of the US corn and soybean crops be diverted to fuel, food use.

About a quarter of the US corn crop will be diverted to ethanol production this year. Biodiesel, made from soybean oil, is also expanding steadily.

According to Greg Blumenthal, chief executive of Washington-based World Perspectives, food proponents will eventually prevail.

"Food will win out first and foremost because it will choose to eat ahead of driving our car," Blumenthal said.

But proponents of biofuels as Friday's roundtable were undaunted, claiming that biofuels were not just necessary for US energy independence but for a stronger rural economy.

"It makes us a much more energy independent nation—it also allows us to create jobs, to help us grow more vegetable interest, make and build things," said Tom Vilsack, former governor of Iowa, the top US grower of corn and soybeans. Reuters

US has no need for emergency oil, says IEA

ILLINOIS—THE INTERNATIONAL Energy Agency (IEA) and the US government have decided there is no need to release oil from strategic reserves after hurricanes Gustav and Ike disrupted production, the IEA said.

The two recent storms shut down a third of the Gulf Coast crude oil production, temporarily the nation's fuel supplies.

"After a thorough joint assessment of the impact of hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the International Energy Agency and the US government have decided that a collective action to release oil to the market from strategic reserves is not necessary at this time," the IEA said in a statement on its website.

"Not all refiners are ready to produce yet, but the assessment of the US government and the IEA on balance is that, despite a significant loss of crude oil and product due to the shut-ins, there remains adequate flexibility in the system to offset this supply disruption."

US Energy Secretary Steve Bodman had said earlier on Friday the United States would not tap its 108 members to release some energy gasoline and diesel supplies in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

Member countries of the Paris-based IEA hold emergency oil stocks for use in case of supply shortfalls.

They were last tapped in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina caused major disruption in the Gulf of Mexico. Reuters

GM draws $3.5B to maintain flexibility

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—GENERAL Motors said that it intended to draw down the remaining $3.5 billion of its $4.5-billion secured revolving credit facility to maintain what the company described as "high level of financial flexibility" at a time when the financial markets are extraordinary.

"Accessing the funds available to us is a prudent liquidity measure," GM treasurer Walter Borst said Friday. "Drawing on the revolver now improves our liquidity position at a time when the capital markets have become more challenging. The revolver draw will bolster the company's liquidity position."

Borst said proceeds from the draw would also be used to retire $750 million of debt maturities falling due in October, and to pay Delphi Corp. in excess of $1.2 billion as part of its reorganization efforts, assuming court approval of the revised agreements between GM and Delphi that were filed with the court earlier this month.

The US Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp. had demanded that bankrupt Delphi Corp. come up with $1.2 billion to cover pension liabilities by the end of September.

Delphi, which is based in Troy, Michigan, filed for bankruptcy and has suffered more than $11 billion in financial losses from GM, which originally spun off the company in 1999.

GM secured the $4.5-billion revolving credit facility in July 2008 from a consortium of banks and provides liquidity that GM can draw on from time to time to fund working capital and other needs.

At the time, GM executives had said, they declined they would need to draw on the facility.

However, car and truck sales in the United States have dropped sharply this year and are not expected to recover until 2009 at the earliest, and GM reported slender cash reserves of approximately $19 billion at the end of June.

The divides concerns had prompted speculation GM could be forced into bankruptcy.

In July, GM announced a plan to bolster liquidity through internal operating actions, asset sales and the capital markets.

"The internal operating elements of the plan remain on track and the company continues to look to opportunistically access the capital markets," GM said in a statement.

GM also announced the completion of a $522-million debt to equity exchange.

GM also is campaigning to have the US government release $25 billion in guaranteed loans that could be used to finance the development of new technology. AFP

US short sale ban falls short on some names

CHICAGO—The corporate world has plenty of bias—the richest, the most admired, the most innovative—but few have been quite so prickly pursuit as Washington's list of "banned shares" published early on Friday.

Banks, fund managers, brokers, and other companies with finance arms of various kinds were on the list of 799 financial stocks on which short-selling was banned until Oct. 2.

The only problem: Some major firms with huge financial operations were left off the list, an indication of how much of an emergency it was when the US Securities and Exchange Commission put together the measure in an attempt to restore confidence to US financial markets.

The banned companies quickly began lobbying to get added—which was not surprising as financial stocks on the list soared, led by banks such as Citigroup, up 14 percent, and JPMorgan Chase gaining almost 17 percent.

Among those who didn't make the list were credit card company American Express Co., commercial lender GE Group Inc., and conglomerate General Electric Co., which has a huge financial arm that generates about half its profits.

There didn't appear to be much rhyme or reason behind some of the inclusions or exclusions. Included, for example, was the company that runs the New York Stock Exchange, NYSE Euronext, and insurer American International Group Inc., which the US government rescued last week.

The SEC did not respond to requests for comment on why specific companies were left off.

However, an SEC spokesman did say that the Commission is willing to consider the addition of comparable financial companies to the list as appropriate.

And an industry source said the SEC will revise the list as, it is known to issue the emergency order, it left some companies off.

Indeed, in the announcement that listed the names, the SEC says the list was "prepared on a best-efforts basis."

A spokesman for CIT said the company had made a "formal request" to be put on the SEC's list, while a source close to GE said the company was "in discussions" with the regulator to be on the banned list.

Regulators around the world had introduced the curbs amid concerns that short sellers were crushing the stocks of major financial names and driving global stock markets down.

Short selling involves an investor selling stock in anticipation the price will fall—in which case the investor can buy back the stock at a lower price. The practice has been blamed for exacerbating in the demise of Lehman Brothers and threatening to bring down Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs this week.

Although potentially embarrassing for the regulator, the major companies left off the list did not appear to suffer too badly.

GE's stock closed up more than 7 percent after reports that it was looking to be added to the list, while CIT closed up 4.5 percent. American Express did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but its shares ended up 7 percent on Friday after not one but two GE-

"The likely psychological impact of the ban is [short sellers] will decide they have not take the risk the SEC will add those companies to the list," said Bruce Isley, head of securities enforcement at law firm Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP.

However, even banks on the list probably came a bit too late for Lehman—its shares did surge but only to 21.51 cents. The company went into bankruptcy last week. Reuters

SM says sales of Edsa condo project remain brisk

By Elizabeth Sanchez Lazaro

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP. THE residential arm of mall tycoon Henry Sy, has sold roughly P2 billion or 70 percent of units at its 40-storey condominium project beside its second biggest mall in the country in North Edsa.

Demand from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) continued to be robust as it accounted for roughly 20 percent of 1,100 units sold to date, according to project director Ronaldo S. Ironkiro.

The bulk of the project was sold to the local market, particularly couples/families and professionals.

Citi on Residences is its debut tower condominium cluster that will offer a total of 3,200 units when completed. Its first tower, which is nearly completely sold, has 1,676 units. Each tower is expected to churn out P5.5 billion in sales for a total of P16.5 billion.

Ironkiro said the selling price of the project was in synergy with SM City North Edsa, the by family's sprawling 135,861-square-meter supermall since unit owners will have access to a 200-meter long exclusive bridgeway to SM City North Edsa.

Unit sizes range from 22 to 36 square meters for a one-bedroom unit fetching P1.3 million to P1.7 million), 48-62 sq.m. for a two-bedroom unit (P2.6-P4.0 million) and 66-69 sqm. for a three-bedroom unit (P5.3-P7.3 million) at an average price of P75,000/sq meter.

Construction of Tower 1, which sits on a 2.6-hectare lot behind SM City North Edsa in Quezon City, began in March this year. Tower 1 units will be turned over in March 2011.

Ironkiro said Tower 1 was 38 percent complete today, a testament, Ironkiro that allows completion of construction on a tight schedule with the early removal of forming decks and beams without the need to remove the shore or support. The same technology was used for Burj Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, touted as the world's tallest skyscraper.

Towers 2 and 3 will be turned over in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Gran Residences, which has a development budget of P6 billion, has allotted 2.5 hectares of premium open space or 75 percent of its total land area for parks and playgrounds, tennis/basketball courts, swimming pools, a resort clubhouse, and a pavilion, Ironkiro said.

Gran Residences' design theme of tropical modern architecture with Queensland Australian motif was conceived by Aqua Design Partners, an architectural firm that promotes green architecture concepts.

OFWs account for 20% of orders

Market seen calming down

From page B1

week and closely monitor developments in Wall Street.

"If you look at last week's more than 400-point fall in the US market, there wasn't any news that would have triggered that. People were scared about AIG (insurance giant American International Group) but it didn't collapse. My guess is that there was a technical support breached and that breakdown caused the market to decline," said Eric Cinatko, market strategist at Diwa Capital Investment.

"This week, the market may calm down after all that emotional selling last week," Cinatko added.

The meltdown last week was largely pinned on a wave of financially troubling news as an offshoot of the subprime crisis – Lehman Brothers going bankrupt, AIG being bailed out by the US government through an $85-billion credit line, and a $50-billion buyout by Bank of America of Merrill Lynch.

At home, Philippine banks said they felt the effects of meltdown of the subprime debacle. But Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas documents showed that only seven local banks had very meaningful exposure to the bankrupt Lehman Brothers.

Since the US subprime bubble burst in August 2007, the Philippine stock market has lost 28.12 percent or 964 points.

From Aug. 1, 2007 to the third week of September this year, foreign investors have been net sellers of P58.47 billion worth stocks, data from the PSE showed.

"We have a lot of things on our plate now that investors are jittery about. Everything is jittery with a lot of rancour," said Oliver Hazis, head of sales at Atlantic Equities Inc.

Hazis advised investors to be on the defensive as markets continue to be hounded by uncertainties abroad.

"Go for stocks with steady revenues and/or cash generators. I like PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's largest telephone company) and Manila Water Co.," Hazis said.

Manila Water is floating P3 billion in peso bond possibly in the fourth quarter, with an option to increase the size to P4 billion to support the company's expansion.

PSALM to re-bid ...

From page B1

has two 110-MW modules; one component of their 70-MW gas turbines and another made up of a 120-MW steam turbine. This means that the plant generates electricity in two ways.

A combination of bunker and diesel fuel is primarily used to power the plant's gas turbines. The plant then uses the exhaust gas heat from the gas turbines to boil water inside the boiler, which, in turn, produces steam to drive the steam turbine.

PSALM has lined up 12 National Power Corp. generation assets, four of which are decommissioned, for auction next year.

PSALM president Jose Ibazeta had earlier said Korea Electric Power Corp. (Kepco) intends to bring 117 to Agusan del Norte—would be placed on the auction block in January.

FUNDING FOR OIL PROJECTS

Philodrill rights offer gets SEC nod

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has approved the proposed stock rights offer of oil and gas exploration firm The Philodrill Corp. to raise some P983.7 million to pay for a portion of its share in the production costs of the Galoc oil field project in offshore Palawan.

Philodrill plans to offer 16.27 billion in stock rights at one centavo each, documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission showed.

Under the terms of the stock rights, each Philodrill shareholder holding at least 4 common shares will be entitled to subscribe to one offer share.

Proceeds will be used to pay for the company's share in the required Oil Service Contract (SC) No. 14 Galoc for two months of production, as well as payment of loans and shareholder advances.

Philodrill has tapped PetroCapital Investment Corp. as its underwriter to distribute the shares.

Philodrill owns 40 percent of PetroCapital investments.

Dilution to eligible stockholders who do not subscribe in their stock rights will be 23 percent.

The company also told the SEC that some of the funds to be raised will be channeled to financing oil production activities of the SC 14 Nido, Matinloc Production Block and SC 14 (1) Galoc Block, all in offshore Palawan.

Philodrill's share of the $76.6-million budget for the oil production activities in these areas will fetch around to $11.4 million.

Elizabeth Sanchez Lazaro

MWC may raise size of bond offer to P4B

By Elizabeth Sanchez Lacson

MANILA WATER CO. INC., THE UTILITY arm of the Ayala Group, said it had an option to increase its maiden peso-bond offering to P4 billion from P3 billion, as targeted earlier, to support the expansion of its water and wastewater networks.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Manila Water said it was planning to offer the peso bonds in the last quarter after securing the necessary regulatory approvals.

The bond offer has an allowance for oversubscription worth another P1 billion. The bond has a term of five years.

"Issuing the bond within the next few months will be beneficial to Manila Water given the liquidity of the market. Domestic bonds seem at present are still attractive despite recent economic developments," Manila Water president Antonino T. Aquino said.

"In addition, the issuance will be beneficial as customers since borrowing from domestic sources will help minimize foreign exchange differential adjustments," Aquino said.

Manila Water said the implementation of IFRIC 12 adjustments would result to a "more conservative" balance sheet (statement of assets and liabilities), which will now recognize the company's future concessions fee obligations to Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

"The net effect on Manila Water is an overall increase in its assets and liabilities, and consumer decrease in retained earnings, amounting to P1.3 billion (or roughly 7 percent of stockholders equity), to account for prior years' adjustments. Despite the adjustments, the company's balance sheet remains strong."

MWC's debt to equity ratio, post-IFRIC 12, was 52:48.

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1. WHAT TO EXPECT/WHERE SHOULD BATCH 2008 FOR IN 2009
National Economic Briefing by Cielito Habito
Director, Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Former Socio-Economic Planning Secretary, NEDA
Oct. 15, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm (1hr/3 day sessions)

Where do opportunities lie in the coming year? Where will risks come from? What are the most promising industries to invest in? Will OFWs continue to be an engine for growth? Will there be potential in exploring ASEAN markets instead? These and other questions will be answered by Cielito Habito as he shares the first economic briefing for 2009.

This session only: Php 2,500 / Early bird special: Register before October 3, pay only P2,250

2. BUSINESS PLANNING: DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR CONTINUING GROWTH
Art Valencia Oct. 15, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
"In preparing for battle," said Dwight Eisenhower, "I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." Learn and immediately apply the discipline of planning for your business.

3. BASICS OF BUDGETING
Dr. Glenda Yu Oct. 22, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
It's easier to manage a budget if you have one in the first place. Learn and master the basics of budgeting and get fresh insights on how to allocate money for what's important for your business.

4. TOP LEVEL BUDGETING
Dr. Glenda Yu Oct. 29, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Master advanced concepts to set your key initiatives, measure and control your financial performance, and set up an early warning system that will alert you if your business plan everywhere is going astray.

5. MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES AND EXPECTATIONS
Ma. Juanita Rodriguez-Ibanez Oct. 1st 2008 pm – 5:00 pm
Are your incentives and your compensation and bonuses the best you could have in? Do you have employees who are disappointed with the company as well? Find out how developing an employee motivation plan can help you avoid these problems.

6. IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY WITHOUT INCREASING FIXED COSTS
Peter Paul V. Suaco Oct. 31, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Find out how you can come up with a reward system that will not burden your monthly fixed costs, but still motivate your employees to work even harder.

7. FAMILY YEAR BUILDING: BUILDING UP A WINNING TEAM
Alexander Medina Oct. 17, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Behind every strong business is a strong family! Learn how to communicate better with your family and build a constructive and high performance winning team.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING & PROFESSIONALIZING THE BUSINESS: CHARTING OUT THE FAMILY'S FUTURE IN THE BUSINESS
Ricky Mercado Oct. 14, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Family businesses need to develop to remain competitive and grow the business. Learn how to make the family business more professional, so that business objectives are met.

9. THE FAMILY CONSTITUTION: THE ANSWER TO FAMILY FEUDS
Perry Quiros Oct. 24, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Why is working with family so tough? Learn how to craft a family constitution to keep the family clarify the rules, create opportunities for better family harmony and to ensure business continuity.

10. SUCCESSION PLANNING: THE FINAL TEST OF GREATNESS
Perry Quiros Oct. 28, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Statistics show that many family businesses eventually fail because of succession problems. Every family member has a stake in the success of transition. Learn how family can come together to keep the founder pass the "Final Test of Greatness".

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Issues delay GSEC 101 conversion

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COMMISSION OF PUBLIC ENERGY (PE)'s geophysical survey and exploration contract 101 (GSEC 101) into a full-fledged service contract remains uncertain due to "issues" that need to be resolved.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the matter was still being evaluated.

"We would have to discuss it on an interagency level. Other departments may have concerns about this contract," he said, declining to elaborate.

A person familiar with the matter earlier said the approval of Forum Energy's conversion application was uncertain due to controversies surrounding the area where GSEC 101 was situated.

The entire GSEC 101 area is within the coverage of the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking, which includes the disputed Spratlys. The JSMU, however, expired in July.

"The DOE is proceeding with caution in this, considering that the entire GSEC 101 is within the JMSU area," the source said.

The Forum Energy board earlier said it had been notified in writing by the DOE that the service contract was in its final draft and that the award would take place on the third week of August. A month later, however, the conversion has yet to take place.

"The board has become aware that the signing of the service contract by the DOE may be delayed for this. The board has received no news in formation on when the GSEC 101 service contract will be signed," the company said in a statement.

GSEC 101 is the only live GSEC in the country that has not been converted to a service contract.

Debt payments share to GDP going down

Gov't to settle P681.5 billion next year

By Michelle V. Rono

THE SHARE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEBT payments to the country's gross domestic product is expected to go down to 7.9 percent next year from 8.3 percent next this year.

This was according to projections made by the Department of Finance, which said that a declining debt service-to-GDP ratio means that a bigger portion of the economy's income could be used for productive spending rather than for paying the liabilities of the state.

The government is scheduled to pay P681.5 billion in debts next year, up 7 percent from the P636.1 billion this year.

But the DOF said the country's GDP in nominal terms, could grow in a faster pace of 15 percent next year to P6.69 trillion from the projected P5.68 trillion this year.

GDP is the sum of the values of goods produced and services rendered within the economy in a given period. Nominal GDP uses current prices of goods and services, while real GDP factors out inflation by using price-during the base year used.

Debt service-to-GDP ratio is one of the indicators used in measuring an economy's ability to further grow.

Last year, the country's debt service-to-GDP ratio stood at 9.2 percent. It was a result of P624.1 billion worth of obligations paid and a nominal GDP of P6.65 trillion.

The debt stock of the government continues to grow yearly since its revenue remains short of its funding requirement.

Finance officials said the debt stock would begin to dwindle when a balanced budget is achieved and sustained.

Despite the growing debt stock, officials said, the economy's capability to service its obligations had been improving steadily.

Of the amount to be paid next year, P270.9 billion represent principal obligations while interest charges account for P353.6 billion. The government resorts to foreign borrowings to settle principal debts but it uses internally generated funds to pay interest on loans.

The budget department earlier said the share of the government's interest payments to total internally generated revenue have been falling over the years.

Request for Proposal for the Design and Delivery of an Aid Management Training program for Aid Management and Development Policy Officers

UNDP

UNDP Papua New Guinea Country Office, on behalf of the Strengthening Aid Coordination and Management Capacities Project (the"Project"), invites your institution to submit a proposal for the Design and Delivery of an **Aid Management Training Program for Aid Management and Development Policy Officers.**

UNDP is the UN's lead development agency, bringing the global community together to help countries develop their own solutions to achieve growth, equity and sustainability.

In collaboration with the Department of National Planning & Monitoring (DNPM) in Papua New Guinea, UNDP is implementing a project called "Strengthening Aid Coordination and Management Capacities." The purpose of the project is to build capacities within the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) to lead more effectively the process of leadership and implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It will do so by building the organizational and management/staff capabilities and functions of the Aid Policy and Coordination Directorate (APCD) of the Department for National Planning and Monitoring (DNPM) so that the Government of Papua New Guinea (GoPNG) has a working, transparent and effective aid coordination, management and delivery system.

For further information, please go to
http://www.undp.org.pg/vacancies.html

PSALM
POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (the "Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The 420 MW Limay Combined Cycle Power Plant
located in Limay, Bataan

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor, Bonifacio Building, 5276 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on 7 October 2009 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 7.6 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand (U.S. $2,000.00) Dollars (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall be either in cash, manager's check, or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before 3:00 p.m. on 8 October 2009 (6 months an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the Bidding Procedures, shall be issued during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **22 September until 6 October 2009** (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline, or consortium (as described below), will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are: (i) each interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must have jointly and severally undertaken to comply with the Bidding Procedures; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	: 22 September 2009 to 13 January 2009
Pre-Bid Conference	: 17 October 2009, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline	: 14 January 2009, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office or send to

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Ten Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 10,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder will be forfeited in favor of PSALM as a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bonifacio Building, 5276 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Proben A. Temporal at the PSALM Office or sent to telefax number (632) 892-8005 or e-mail address: **bidsinquiries@psalm.gov.ph**.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder on grounds or lack therefore, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer deemed most advantageous to the Government, without affording any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education (DepEd) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), hereby invites registered and experienced in the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following:

Name of Contract	: Construction of RHU II (Phase I)
Location	: Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet
Brief Description	: Construction of Regional Education's Learning Center
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00)
Contract Duration	: 119 Calendar days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract. Have completed a similar contract (building, with one or more storeys rather than single-storey) with a value of at least 50% of the ABC; and have key personnel with principal/key accreditation and registered (latest) in the Eligibility Check; and/or shall submit the following documents: Valid PCAB License and Registration; Valid Mayor's/Business Permit; Tax Clearance; and Net Financial Contracting as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars, relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Submission of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract and Implementation of the Contract are provided in R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance and Acquisition of Bidding Documents	September 15 to October 1, 2009 (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) at the Office of the BAC, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet
2. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	October 2, 2009, at or before 2:00 PM at the BAC Office, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet. Check-ing of Eligibility Requirements follows immediately
3. Opening of Bids	October 16, 2009
4. Opening of Bids/Documents	October 16, 2009
5. Pre-Bid Conference	October 16, 2009, 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet
6. Post-Qualification	October 16, 2009, 10:00 A.M. at the BAC Office, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet
7. Issuance of Notice of Award	October 19, 2009
8. Contract Signing	October 20, 2009
9. Notice to Proceed	October 21, 2009

The Bids and Awards Eligibility Panel, in its preparation thereof, at the Physical Facilities Unit, DepED CAR, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet upon their submission of Letter of Intent (LOI), and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents, Plans (Php500.00) at the DepED Cash Cashier.

The DepED CAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract to the prospective bidder if it has reasons to believe that it is not in the best interest of the government to award the contract to the prospective bidder.

Approved:

Engr. TERESITA M. VELASCO, CESO V
Director III, BAC Chairman

Date: 9/18/2009

ROUNDUP

Google News localizes PH site

THE PHILIPPINES IS THE FIRST COUNTRY IN Southeast Asia to get its own local editions of Google News.

Internet search giant Google launched Google News (http://news.google.com.ph) in the Philippines on Wednesday. The site's content comes from more than 4,500 sources, including Philippines news outlets.

Its newest reading list now article from a single location or story. Google News users are encouraged to rate several articles from a number of different publications," Google said in a statement. Raul C. Olchondra

eTelecare's ehome

eTELECARE GLOBAL Solutions has launched a home-based offering for its US delivery centers called ehome.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, eTelecare said ehome used a hub-and-spoke approach that combined the best features of a traditional contact center and a work-from-home virtual workplace.

Company CEO and president John Harris said the company might also consider this solution for its Philippine operations.

e-Telecare employees under the ehome program will undergo initial training. After that, they will work primarily from home using the company's centralized technology architecture and delivery platform to access the same proprietary training, workflow, reporting and quality tools as in the delivery center. Raul C. Olchondra

RP business goes to Germany

A PHILIPPINE business delegation will be in Germany on Oct. 12-17 to inform the German business community in Baden-Wurttemberg, Bavaria and North Rhine-Westphalia, about business opportunities in the Philippines.

To be led by Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima, the delegation will promote Philippine services and industries. Delegates are scheduled to hold meetings with selected German players in these sectors. A program for the delegation has been planned in coordination with the Philippine Honorary Consuls in these cities.

CREBA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2008

October 23, 24 and 25
Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center
SBFZA, Zambales

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1: October 23, 2008 (Thursday)
A.M. Arrival / Registration
Courtesy Call: Olongapo & SBMA
Presentation & Approval of Convention Meeting
P.M. Courtesy Call & Business Tour - Subic
Chapter Orientation Workshop
CHAPTER NIGHT: QUIZ BOWL AND MUSICALE

DAY 2: October 24, 2008 (Friday)
A.M. Opening of Session
Invocation / Prayer
National Anthem
Keynote Speaker: **HON. PROSPERO C. NOGRALES**
Speaker, House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines
Luncheon Speaker: **Press & Progress of Central Luzon**
P.M. LAND USE FORUM
"BALANCING LAND USE FOR FOOD, JOBS FOR AND OTHER NEEDS"
GALA NIGHT

DAY 3: October 25, 2008 (Saturday)
A.M. HOUSING FORUM
"FUNDING FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT: ONE WAY TO"
Keynote Speaker: **VICE PRESIDENT NOLI "Kabayan" DE CASTRO**
Republic of the Philippines
Housing & Urban Dev't Coordinating Council
Presentation & Approval of Convention Resolutions
Closing Ceremonies
HOUSING TRIUMPHANT – As Home Perspective"
P.M. Business Tour & Site visiting
Group A – Subic, Olongapo Cove & Civil Aviation
Group B – Hanjinpogal, Lubasan & Filing Park
FAREWELL NIGHT – "Island for CREBA ons!"

Registration Fee:
Member – Php 8,000
Non-Member – Php 7,000

1-Day Registration
Php 3,000
Inclusive of 3 lunch, 2 breakfast, 1 dinner and all kits

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CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE & BUILDERS' ASSOCIATIONS, INC. (CREBA)
Telefax: (632) 372 2278 to 79 * Fax: (632) 372 2271
Email: creba_mis@yahoo.com * URL: www.creba.ph

OFW remittances seen to hit $18.3B in 2009

TAIWAN BASS ECO AWARD
Prince Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands (right), chair of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, congratulates business tycoon Lucio Tan, who bagged the Eco Award for Water Sustainability during the 6th Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Cebu City. Tan was cited for his pioneering work in rehabilitating and constructing small water impounding projects in Northern Luzon.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS expects overseas Filipinos' remittances to the country to reach $18.3 billion next year, up by 10 percent from the projected inflows this year.

Of the total, $17.6 billion was expected to be counted through the banking system, which will also be 10 percent higher than the projected figure for this year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said a steady 10-percent growth in remittances would support a sustained surplus in the current account, which would also keep the balance of payments in a surplus.

The BSP has projected that the BOP would post a surplus of $2.3 billion next year, up from the expected $2 billion surplus this year.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

The central bank reports monthly the volume of remittances sent by overseas Filipinos through banks. Since May 2006, remittances sent by overseas Filipinos through banks have exceeded $1 billion monthly.

Money sent home through banks jumped by 24.6 percent in July over a year ago to hit $1.27 billion on higher deployment of workers and expansion of remittance services, based on the latest BSP data.

Supported by the double-digit growth in cash remittances over the last four months, inflows counted through the banking system from January to July amounted to $9.6 billion, up by 16.2 percent over the same period last year.

The bulk of the remittances came from the USA, Saudi Arabia, UK, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The continued deployment of Filipino workers overseas boosted the level of remittances this year despite the US-led global slowdown. This trend is expected to continue through next year.

Better access by overseas workers and their beneficiaries to money transfer services provided by banks and non-bank remittance agents, through the establishment of more remittance centers and tie-ups abroad is also seen contributing significantly to the robust growth in remittances.

The BSP's prospects on overseas employment also remain rosy given the recently concluded agreement among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to standardize, regulate and monitor professional standards—such as those for accountants, dentists and medical practitioners. This is expected to facilitate the mobility of professionals within the region.

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PLDT moves to complete takeover of Piltel facilities

By Kisa T. Olchondra

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. is working to complete its takeover of subsidiary Philippine Telephone Co.'s fixed-line assets, which is soon to result in the conversion of these facilities' permits.

In motions filings with the National Telecommunications Commission, PLDT has sought on overcome permits for remote local exchange cyber assets in the provinces of Bataan del Sur, Bulacan, Mindoro Occidental, Iloilo, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Misamis Occidental and South Cotabato, as well as the cities of General Santos and Baguio.

Since the regulator has already approved the sale of these assets to the parent company, PLDT said there was a need to peg the terms of their permits with PLDT's franchise "in order to streamline the expiration dates of PLDT's various CPCNs [certificates of public convenience and necessity]."

Piltel's permits for these facilities are supposed to expire in September 2011 but if they become co-terminus with PLDT's franchise, their permits will be valid up to November 2028.

Last month, NTC allowed PLDT to buy P6bil-P12bil assets worth P902.3 million, exclusive of the value-added tax. The deal included fixed assets, equipment, vehicles and the right to operate LEC and wireless telecommunications services to residential and institutional customers in Piltel's service areas.

PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said the takeover by PLDT of Piltel's fixed line business would enable the latter to concentrate on its wireless offering, notably Talk N' Text.

PLDT has been managing Piltel's fixed line business since July 2001 under a facilities management deal. As mid-2007, Piltel had about 48,415 fixed line subscribers.

Sale or lease of assets, certificates and franchises among telecommunications entities should be approved by NTC.

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Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts | Valuation Date 09/14/09 | Valuation Date 09/15/09
PELAC Dollar Bond Fund | 1.3293 | 1.3358
PELAC Global Bond Fund | 1.1726 | 1.1817
PELAC Peso Fixed Income Fund | 1.1859 | 1.1859
PELAC Peso Equity Fund | 1.0917 | 1.0934
PELAC Balanced Fund | 0.7859 | 0.8004

DEVELOPMENT CENTER FOR FINANCE
College of Business Administration, University of the Philippines (Diliman Quezon City)
Seminar on Risk Analysis and Management
October 10 and 25, 2009 (Saturdays)
Today's financial markets have seen the proliferation of financial assets which are exposed to increasing risks due to interest rate volatility, foreign exchange fluctuations, and changes in other market variables. The challenge for financial practitioners is to measure and manage these risks using financial and quantitative tools. This two-day seminar discusses the common tools for risk measurement and management.
Saturday, October 10
Module 1
•Quantifying financial risk
•Value-at-risk metrics
•Risk limits
Saturday, October 25
Module 2
•Financial Derivatives
•Accounting for derivatives
For inquiries, please contact Ms. Ivy Pagaduan-Lascuña at 928-0825 PLEASE on 18 June 2009, 4:00 PM to receive the draft of our early bird and group discounts!

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INFOTECH

Text us your feedback: Inquirer Business subscribers text message to 2317 (Globe or 280 Smart)

Invoice handling made easy with Swedish software

By Rizz T. Olchondra

IF YOUR COMPANY handles 20,000 invoices or more a year, chances are you could save 25 to 50 percent of your in-house handling costs through a software called BendSoft, developed by a Swedish software company.

Consider this: Upon delivery an invoice goes through opening and sorting, collecting, verifying and stamping, manual (in-house) mailing to the user (allowing to take the invoice) handling process, "pushing" or preliminary booking, back to in-house mail, collection and preliminary approval, back to in-house mail, final approval, posting or final booking, back to in-house mail, and finally, retain (such as payment) and archiving.

By this time, BendSoft says, a company would have spent $30 for the manhours and other resources used to handle one invoice.

"Much of the handling cost goes to paying a highly skilled worker, say your accountant, to do routine tasks such as checking and encoding invoice information," said Maurice Lovisa, managing partner of BendSoft's Philippine distributor, Ripple E-Business International Inc. "Companies can increase productivity and cut costs by automating the process with software such as BendSoft."

BendSoft uses artificial intelligence to simplify the process of checking, recording, transferring and filing data from electronic and printed documents. Even if a company saves only 25 percent of its handling costs, BendSoft said, this would amount to $100,000 a year with 20,000 invoices processed.

Financial institutions and business process outsourcing services providers are BendSoft's primary targets.

"Since these companies process thousands of documents per year, these types of companies can get the most benefit from BendSoft," Lovisa said. "The software works with SAP and Oracle platforms, as well as companies who have to integrate will be easier."

In 1997, BendSoft invented the revolutionary auto-learning technology for automated invoice handling.

The software can even read handwriting from left to right, as if it had human eyes.

In 2001, it became the first company to certified by SAP for invoice processing.

Over the years, the company gained a deeper understanding of the needs and requirements of financial departments, the vendors associated with accounts payable, and the invoice processes of many organizations in a large number of countries all over the globe.

Today, BendSoft is the No. 1 player in the world, with the largest number of installations and the widest experience in the business.

BENDSOFT's invoice verification screen shows detailed invoice data on the document.

Stylish and functional N series notebooks from Asus

ASUS N10

TAIWAN TECH COMPANY ASUS HAS RE-vamped its N Series of notebooks highlighting style and productivity through mixed features and innovative design.

Each N Series notebook comes with innovative technological developments such as the highly efficient Super Hybrid Engine (SHE) which automatically allocates power, promoting battery life by up to 35 percent, a built-in Express Gate operating system that allows users to access their most commonly used programs in 6 seconds, and the SmartLogon facial recognition system that recognizes users' facial features and logs them on without requiring any manual key input.

Designed for mobility, the ASUS N10 sports a 15.2-inch monitor and delivers a multi-sensory experience with a NVIDIA GeForce 9300M graphics card and Intel Atom processors.

A total performer for business and personal entertainment, the ASUS N20 comes with a 12.1-inch monitor and up to 12 hours of battery life. This notebook is also equipped with an Altec Lansing sound system, plus a highly efficient optical hard disk drive housed in a dust and moisture-resistant casing.

The ASUS N50 comes with a 14.1-inch display powered by a standalone NVIDIA GeForce 9 Series graphics card with up to 1 GB of VRAM and is complemented by Dolby Surround decoding.

User-friendly and featuring intuitive functions, the ASUS N50 features a one-of-a-kind touch-operation button located at the top of the keyboard, serving as sensitive and convenient point of command to control and for instantaneous enjoyment.

Another unique feature of the N50 is its built-in air feature that not only helps clean

ASUS N50

the air of allergens and germs around the user, but also promotes an flow and circulation.

The N Series notebooks all feature stealth-resistant paint made through Infrared Roller technology that ensures a sleek even after prolonged use. The notebook comes streamlined exterior with shiny metal-like brand patterns inspired by mechanical subways.

The ASUS N Series notebooks feature the Super Hybrid Engine (SHE) which consists of the Energy Processing Unit (EPU), Smart Gear Hybrid application and the Energy Processing Unit (EPU). Smart Gear Hybrid facilitates the deployment and use of power according to the users' performance in relation to specific tasks that they need to perform, while the EPU accurately detects the users' power requirements and makes the necessary power adjustments. The combined energy saving effects of the SHE results in an extension of battery life by up to 35 percent.

The N Series notebooks also reduce boot-up times significantly with the ASUS Express Gate. It allows users to boot up in 6 seconds granting them instantaneous access to a built-in operating system that runs common applications such as Skype™, e-mails, calendars, and Internet browsing.

THE LATEST FROM DELL

Looking beyond the rack for style

DELL HAS JUST LAUNCHED ITS smallest, most environmentally responsible consumer PC, the Studio Hybrid.

The personal computer's unique shape and size...powers, packed with an optional, external hard-hand solar or Bamboo sleeves...embodies stylistic expression, inspiration and fun, looking great in any room.

"The design and craftsmanship of the Studio Hybrid alone are enough to cause you to do a double take," said Pilar Alejo, Dell vice president, Asia Pacific & Japan consumer sales and marketing. "Combine that with the performance of this little beauty and its environmentally smart DNA, and you've got something truly unique—something that you can make your own."

Dell's smallest desktop PC, about the size of a shoebox, definitely can fit just about anywhere. Depending on the function or choice, the Studio Hybrid can be set up in a vertical or horizontal orientation, and be personalized with a choice of seven optional, interchangeable material finishes or color decors: Bamboo, Emerald, Quartz, Ruby, Sapphire, Tuscan and Topaz.

Expected to hit the retail shelves this October, the Studio Hybrid is at home in the living room, fitting easily into entertainment centers, and connects to HDTVs via a standard HDMI port. When paired with an optional wireless keyboard, people can easily flip back and forth from watching a favorite broadcast TV show or sporting event to checking online stats, reading email, looking at digital pictures, etc. on TV.

Also, Dell has unveiled the latest addition to—a small, easy-to-carry device that stands ready to connect users, movies, travelers and "movies" to their online world. So it's for surfing the Web, chatting with friends, blogging, streaming content, uploading photos or enjoying favorite media, free videos, music and games.

The Inspiron Mini weighs in at 1.04kg. Digital content will take to durable design, matte metal keyboard and sizable solid state drive (SSD) memory storage.

A bright 8.9-inch glossy LED display (1024x600) presents most web pages with no left-right scrolling, and the keypads are larger and easy to navigate.

Dell has also teamed up with Bluetel to offer exclusive web-based file storage, access and sharing to Inspiron Mini users, including a free Basic plan with 2GB of remote storage space, expandable to 250GB.

Individuals can safely and securely upload files of any type to their Bluetel, including photos, videos, music, documents and presentations, and access the files from almost anywhere via any device.

The Inspiron Mini is available in Obsidian Black and in seven interchangeable faceplates—Windows® XP® or Windows® Vista®. The Inspiron Mini with Windows XP Home will be available at P24,899.00.

Apart from the Studio Hybrid and Inspiron Mini, Dell has also introduced the "Studio" lap-top—a new consumer product line designed for self-expression and creative living.

Dell's distinctively styled laptops—the Dell Studio 15 and Dell Studio 17—combine sleek design, striking visual color choices, and personalization options with features such as creative and built-in webcam, superb rich sound media control buttons, six total drives, and optional one-of-a-kind displays and built-in mobile broadband.

"The pace we live today we are hooked and entertained on our various portfolio with emphasis on product style, design and personalization," said Mary J. Miller, Dell director for Asia Pacific & Japan Consumer Marketing. "Flamingo Pink and Midnight Blue laptops have since become regular sights as we design components and in coffee shops."

Starting with either a 15- or 17-inch high-definition display, customers may pick one of six optional color choices, including new Plum, Purple and Tangerine Orange, in addition to Flamingo Pink, Midnight Blue, Ruby Red, Spring Green or standard Jet Black.

While Dell Studio systems have rich form features, they also offer customers a wide variety of options to make the system in-vibration and enhances the user's digital pleasure.

The optional Blu-ray Disc reader help deliver cinematic video quality on high definition displays.

The laptops retail at P52,399 (Studio 15) and P57,299 (Studio 17).

STUDIO Notebook in purple (above)

STUDIO hybrid desktop 320

STUDIO notebook in turquoise

BBDO GUERRERO / PROXIMITY PHILIPPINES WINS AGENCY OF THE YEAR

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, 10 September 2008. In an award ceremony on 29th August, BBDO Guerrero / Proximity Philippines was named as Philippine 44th Agency of the Year.

This is the first time that BBDO Guerrero / Proximity Philippines has won the coveted title, and means that they have become the first Agency in The Philippines to hold the "Triple Crown" of Agency titles consecutively, already securing Campaign titles' Asia's Philippines Agency of the Year and the Philippine Ad Congress Agency of The Year titles prior to Friday's announcement.

David Guerrero, Chairman and Chief Creative Officer of BBDO Guerrero commented, "It is a great testament to the hard work of every single member of the Agency and the ongoing support of all of our Clients that we have achieved this remarkable result of being the first Agency in The Philippines to hold all three Agency of the Year titles at the same time. It raises the bar even higher for us as we look to outperform ourselves in the years ahead!"

BBDO Guerrero / Proximity Philippines received the accolade after an outstanding year in 2007, with the Agency having had many biggest ever wins in terms of new business wins and international creative recognition. The latest Agency of the Year accolade comes as BBDO Guerrero / Proximity Philippines look to celebrate their 10th Anniversary of operations next month. "We couldn't have asked for a better way to celebrate our 10th year than achieving this outstanding result," added Guerrero.

SONY cyber-shot T700 in various shades

New glam digicams: 'Better than a pair of stilettos'

By Raquel P Gervasi

SIMILAR TO OTHER GADGETS OUT there, digital point-and-shoot cameras are now being marketed as fashion accessories.

Sony recently proved this point when it launched three new colorful Cyber-shot digital cameras in an event that can only be described as glitzy fashion and entertainment show, with open bar and lounge party—attended by celebrities, models and dealers...the-works.

At Sony's event at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City last Friday, celebrity endorser KC Concepcion unveiled the three new Cyber-shot models T77, T700 and T500, which, according to Sony officials, would improve one's sense of style better than a pair of stilettos could.

The T77 has been described as "for slim style statement," while the T700 has come to be known as "the global fashionista's stiletto." The T500 becomes "the HD Movie Star."

The new Cybers shots were glamorously displayed by black-clad models who did the catwalk in the fashion show segment.

But beyond the catchy fashion shtick and

CYBER-SHOT T700

the ostensible dazzling colors and three new Cyber-shot babies effect?

The three new Cyber-shots all feature 10-megapixel resolution with intelligent scene recognition settings. They also feature the Optical SteadyShot image stabilizer and an improved High Sensitivity mode of ISO 3200.

Both features work together to help reduce camera shake and motion-blur for photographing closer in low light situations. All the digicams, which come in different colors, have an extra fine, bigger LCD mesh screen at measuring 3.5 inches for the T700 and T500, and 3 inches for the T77.

The T77 is the world's slimmest camera at 13.99 mm. It features a smile shutter function as well as a double anti-blur capability.

The T700 features 4x optical zoom and a 4 GB internal memory or an equivalent of as much as 40,000 photos. To handle all these photos, the T700 has an easy photo management function.

T77, the world's slimmest camera

Apart from making high quality images, the T500 is the first Cyber-shot to capture and play back high definition movies. Videos taken with the T500 are saved in the compressed MPEG-4 AVC/H.264 format for easy sharing and uploading to websites.

The T77 is now available in Sony Signatures, Digital Industries Plazas, and authorized Sony dealers. The T700 and the T500 will be available in October.

Data loss prevention inches into RP's awareness

By Charles E. Rubio

BECAUSE OF UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE Internet and unprecedented mobility, company information could now be easily shared and accessed anytime and anywhere by employees and their partners.

Unfortunately this new global landscape also means a lot of information to such unintended parties, and more a company's trade secrets to become public knowledge.

"Even worse, that company's customer's data could leak out and, next thing you know, that company would be facing a lawsuit," said Richard Velasco, Symantec senior technical consultant in the Philippines.

Symantec, based in Cupertino, California, is a leading company that provides security, storage and systems management applications designed to help businesses and consumers secure and manage their information.

Evolved

Velasco said security and compliance challenges around information protection and the insider threat have evolved over the past few years. Organizations are increasingly becoming more interested in their employees' computer activity and are now more concerned about sensitive information leaving their premises.

"Companies should have something that could monitor data leaving their network via e-mail, instant messaging, printed documents, USB drives, CD-ROMs and other methods," he said. "That system should sound off an alarm when data deemed sensitive—such as financial documents, customer information, source code or other intellectual property—is being accessed, copied or sent without authorization."

During a media briefing held in Makati, Velasco announced that Symantec now has solutions to help Philippine companies define and implement policies, manage and protect information, and secure and manage their systems and devices.

"Beyond network security, data loss prevention, or DLP, is gaining awareness among companies here in the Philippines," he said. "Everyone thinks of keeping the bad stuff out (viruses), but we're finding that a major threat is keeping the good stuff in."

DLP is a computer security term describing systems that are designed to detect and prevent undetected, unauthorized transfer of information or organization members.

Most comprehensive

"Symantec is now combining its market-leading security and storage capabilities with Vontu's market-leading DLP technologies, creating the most comprehensive Information Risk Management solution on the market," Velasco said.

Last year, Symantec acquired security vendor Vontu to gain a deeper foothold in the DLP market.

Velasco explained that Vontu's products would complement Symantec's existing portfolio with a comprehensive platform to prevent the loss of confidential data wherever it is stored or used—across endpoint, network and storage systems. The products are:

• Vontu Endpoint solutions, which allow companies to prevent confidential data from being copied to USB drives, burned to CD/DVDs, and downloaded to local drives, as well as discover and protect confidential data stored on laptops and desktops.

• Vontu Network Monitoring and Prevention solutions, which may use to stop confidential data from being sent outside the organization via e-mail, webmail, FTP/IM and other Internet protocols.

• Vontu Data Discovery and Protection solutions, which allow organizations to determine where confidential information is stored and quickly find and fix exposed data on file servers, document management systems, laptops and desktops.

Vontu also offers a consolidated platform for policy management, detection, workflow and remediation that enables organizations to define policies once and enforce them everywhere.

"Indeed, DLP offers a wide range of compelling benefits to organizations," said Velasco.

"With a unified DLP solution across endpoint, network, and storage systems, organizations can better understand where their sensitive information is, how it is used, and how best to prevent its loss."

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Seaoil inks $30-M diesel supply deal

By Ryan L. Rio

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM SEAOIL PHILIPPINES Inc. has concluded a $30-million contract to import trading house SK Networks for the supply of Euro-3 diesel, a type of diesel that is compliant with more stringent emission standards, over the next six months.

SK Networks, a unit of South Korean global conglomerate SK Corp. and one of its main marketing divisions, is a leading player in the global trading of oil, gas, coal, steel and chemical products.

Seaoil president Chris Pa said the supply deal would allow the oil firm to be the first in the country to offer Euro-3 diesel to motorists. This type of diesel has lower sulfur content and a higher cetane number of 51.

The Euro-3 is a European emission standard that sets lower emission levels through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles that accept such fuels.

According to Seaoil, the lower the sulfur content, the less the toxic pipe emissions. On the other hand, the higher the cetane number, the shorter the ignition delay.

The combination of low sulfur content and high cetane number results in less harmful emissions.

Pa said Seaoil's launch of the Euro-3 diesel would further boost its product line, particularly at a time when cleaner fuels were very much in demand.

The introduction of Euro-3 diesel is likewise part of Seaoil's effort to be at the forefront of clean and alternative fuel promotion, amid concerns about contaminated oil price volatility and climate change.

Seaoil in 2009 became the third local oil company to offer gasoline with a 10-percent ethanol blend (E10), way ahead of the schedule blend mandate under the Biofuels Act of 2006.

Under the Biofuels Law, all diesel-fed vehicles should use a minimum 1-percent biodiesel blend within three months of the effectivity of the law. The mandated blend will rise to at least 2 percent after two years.

Also, gasoline should have at least 5-percent ethanol blend within two years of the law's effectivity, or by 2009. The mandated blend will rise to at least 10 percent after four years.

Asean+3 mining pact seen ratified next month

By Amy R. Remo

THE MINING INDUSTRY IS CONFIDENT the "Manila Accord," which establishes uniform mining policies, standards and benchmarks in the region, will be ratified next month by the Asean+3 countries.

Drafted jointly by the Philippine government and the Chamber of Mines, the Manila accord will be the subject of discussion among ministers in the 8th Asia-Pacific Mining Conference dubbed "Asean Mining: Fueling Asia's Growth" on Oct. 14-16.

According to Chamber of Mines president Philip Romualdez, a major point the country has introduced in the Manila Accord is the establishment of benchmarking for public and corporate social responsibility.

"We should have the same standards and benchmarks across Asean so there will be conformity in policies and regulations. This means we would not allow anyone to escape from having to practice responsible mining and corporate social responsibility," Romualdez said.

"This will become the basis for public and corporate social responsibility which will have to be incorporated in the whole mining process. In this manner, all companies and local stakeholders would be on the same page with regards to the requirements during various stages of mining," he said.

The mayor, he added, would help minimize conflict among companies, local and provincial governments, communities and other stakeholders since "there will be a leveling of expectations as benchmarks are established—from feasibility study stage, construction and development, operation and closure.

The Manila Accord could also serve as guide/tools on how to mine responsibly in the Asean region.

"The Philippines, or any other country for that matter, will not be accused of riches being too strict or too lenient in mining forms," he said.

"If accepted by the Asean+3 countries, the Manila Accord would be a great development and would benefit the whole region," Romualdez added.

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BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

The Fort: A frenetic pace of development

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE FORMER MILITARY BASE IN FORT Bonifacio, Taguig City, is a picture of frenetic construction activity.

Huge cranes operate day and night to pour concrete into new office buildings, residential condominiums, schools and hospitals that will change yet again the skyline of this now central business district.

Undertaking the development is the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, a government corporation formed in 1992 to convert the former US military bases and Metro Manila military camps into centers of economic growth.

BCDA, under chair Aloysius S. Santos, is on its way to fulfilling its mission, not just in the former Fort Bonifacio, but in its other areas of responsibility, including the Clark and Subic military reservations and Camp John Hay in Baguio City.

Santos recently sat with the Inquirer and discussed how the Fort Bonifacio has come in terms of development and where he wants to see it go under his watch.

Q: What was the state of development of Fort Bonifacio when you came in?

A: When I assumed the chairmanship of the BCDA in November 2006, the development of the Bonifacio Global City was already being undertaken both by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., which is controlled and managed by the Ayala-Cacayorin Group for a 150-hectare-area joint venture with BCDA, and by BCDA itself for the other BGC areas.

From the prolonged real estate crisis that started in 1997, it was only in 2007 when land values and rental values in Bonifacio Global City recovered and returned to the pre-1997 levels. It was only in 2007 when land prices have again reached more than P120,000/sq.m., together with office rental values at P700-1,000/sq.m. and rental rates for high-end accommodation units like Pacific Plaza Towers at more than P200,000 per month, also in 2007. Pacific Plaza units have sold at the P52K- to P72-million level, which were the prices at its event.

There were relatively few completed and startup projects in Bonifacio Global City when I first came on board. In 2003, there were only seven projects completed, bringing the total accumulated projects from the very beginning to only 28, with a developed gross floor area (GFA) of 718,800 sq.m. By 2006, there were nine projects completed for the year, bringing the total to 37 projects completed, covering 790,000 sq.m. of GFA.

In 2007, there were 17 projects completed, the highest for one year in the history of Bonifacio Global City, bringing the accumulated total to 68 projects, covering 1,851,800 sq.m. GFA.

This trend is clearly being sustained because there will be 14 projects completed by 2008, accumulating to 82 total projects of 1,559,000 sq.m. Not only were there more projects completed but the projects covered more gross floor area and would double the gross floor area in a span of only two years.

BCDA chair Aloysius Santos

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THE FORT: view (above) and town (right)

The Fort: A frenetic ...

Turn to page B2-1

Based on building applications on the rezoned, and including the Expanded Big Dello lots, which were recently sold to the Net Group; headed by Cesar Jr. Rufino and Jacques Delpasquier, there will be 526 total projects completed in 2012, covering 2.6 million sq.m. of GFA.

In real terms in 2006, we only had the suburbs, very few office buildings like Net One and Net Square, and several residential condominiums like Pacific Plaza and Cosmos. Interland Market! opened only in 2004. Bonifacio High School and the Serendra retail strip only became fully operational in 2007.

This year, the 46-story Shangri-La Hotel commenced construction and, by the end of 2008, we shall break ground both for the 50-plus-story Philippine Stock Exchange Building and the Science Museum.

The development of the North Bonifacio (North Bond) area, bounded by Edsa-past Ayala Avenue and which comprises about 23.8 hectares, started in the first quarter of this year. The North Bond area includes the West Block / Federal Land (property) with 14.3-ha., within which will rise a 66-story tower in house an international five-star hotel.

Q: What do you think are the factors behind the frenetic pace of development today?

At Boeing 2007, there were many factors which contributed to this fast-paced development of Bonifacio.

We start with the takeover of Ayala Land Inc. and the Campos Group in PBDC, which brought a fresh wave of confidence and optimism in the development of Bonifacio Global City, coupled with the infusion of new capital and substantial resources.

Secondly, the admirable growth of the Philippine economy brought new investments to Bonifacio.

Thirdly, the resurgence of the overseas Filipinos (workers, bankbuyers and professionals) fueled the residential market.

Fourthly, the growth of the call centers and BPOs spurred the office sector as well as the residential and retail/entertainment sectors.

Fifth, the government and BCDA embarked on an honest-to-goodness privatization program which encouraged and set the environment for more investments in public-private partnership.

As importantly, a major factor is the BCDA organization itself, which drives BCDA's contribution to this frenetic pace of development: not just in Bonifacio but also in other former military bases as well.

Under its charter, BCDA's main strategy be conversion, development and disposition to privatization. BCDA—from its board, to its management, and down to its staff members—believes and advocates close partnership with the private sector. The personal and crucial role of the private sector is recognized and highly regarded. The BCDA Board is a multidisciplinary and collegial decision-making body composed of representatives from the private sector, the labor sector, experts from the academe, practitioners in finance and business and socio-civic organizations.

Q: What was the major turning point?

At The main turning point is the turnaround of the real estate sector in the latter part of 2006, hand-in-hand with the robust economic growth of the Philippines in 2007.

Q: Do you see growth continuing? Why or why not?

At Growth will continue. Overseas Filipinos will continue to invest and the BPOs will continue to grow. In fact, their expansion situation in the United States is spurring major US companies to outsource business processes because of lower costs.

Many international investment funds and foreign investors, especially China, continue to be very bullish on Philippine real estate.

With sustained growth of the Philippine economy, there still remain major opportunities, especially with the support of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Administration for pro-investment and pro-development policies to attract and encourage foreign investment in this area of land development.

Admittedly, there are present vulnerabilities that are apparent, like price increases in construction materials, rising world oil prices, weakening of the US economy and those of other western economies, the subprime crisis in the US, and the decline of several stock markets abroad, including that of the Philippines. Today we have double-digit inflation, which is evident in increasing food prices and even a slight uptick in interest rates despite the liquidity of the banking system.

For Fort Bonifacio, however, I can still see growth even in the face of these threats because, overall, the Philippine real estate industry has a lot of room, and the development here at the Fort has gained momentum due to its model-city quality-of-life development.

Q: What is driving the growth of the real estate industry in general?

At First, continuing growth of Philippine economy. Second, growing overseas Filipino workers remittances, projected to be at $15 billion (as per data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) this year. Third, continuous growth of the BPO sector. As per Megaworld, which is developing four major BPO hubs, two of which are in Global City, BPO demand here in BF will see only increase but will be accelerated.

Q: What do you think makes Fort Bonifacio unique and in a position to attract a lot of investments?

At Fort Bonifacio is unique because:

- It is located, being positioned in the Makati Central Business District and near access to the Nino Aquino (Pinas Terminal 3 is on BCDA property);
- It is world-class (underground utilities, infrastructure, design standards, another features, etc.);
- Presence of a major cause-of-the-art hospital—St. Luke's—which will be the model for hospital tourism in Southeast Asia;
- It has ample open spaces, amenities, and institutional areas (largely for education) to serve its features;
- It is not conquered like Makati, and will not be congested because of the strict adherence to the floor-area-ratio (FAR) where, as they say, buildings are allowed to breathe, and having in place a master plan of high international standards;
- It builds on the name of Ayala, Megaworld and other well-known and credible developers;
- It offers a quality of life that many developments; and,
- The support provided by the city government of Taguig.

Q: Does BCDA just accept any investment or does it screen buyers? If yes, do weigh investments, what do you look at when evaluating project proposals?

At In Fort Bonifacio, as well as for the other former military camps in Metro Manila, BCDA always carries out a prior investment process, e.g., bidding, for the developers/buyers/joint venture partners.

Moreover, it is not just the price that is a consideration in the privatization and disposition of real estate assets of BCDA, but more importantly, the reputation of the JV partner or of the property buyer.

Thus, BCDA seriously considers the financial and technical capability commitment, credibility and track record/reputation of its developers. A developer should be able to bring great value to the development. As a result, BCDA selects only the best developers as partners or as property buyers.

Q: How do you see Fort Bonifacio five years from now? What is your vision for the area?

At In five years, Fort Bonifacio will continue to be a rapidly developing global city, involving major foreign investor/developers. As mentioned earlier, the Development has already shifted from the Expanded Big Dello Lots, which is in its eastern portion, adjacent to Manila Golf, to the North Bonifacio area.

Presently, BCDA is jointly developing roads and utilities in North Bonifacio with Megaworld/Federal Land as well as with PBDC.

So, from the residential-dominated development as the start, development will be more oriented to that of offices, commercial, entertainment and even institutional. Bonifacio shall be a primarily business district with a strong mix-use component.

BCDA intends to push the frontiers of Bonifacio towards the south to link with the Technical and Nichols Base areas. Already, BCDA is preparing the development and disposition plans for its remaining properties, south of Bonifacio Global City, to be called Bonifacio South, covering 93 hectares. This will be another major-scale development which should attract more investors, both foreign and local.

Aside from having the home of passionate minds, Bonifacio Global City will be a city with a vibrant soul. The amenities that are sometimes forgotten in the single-minded pursuit of real estate profits shall be established. Examples are cultural centers, convention centers, concert halls, art centers, sports stadium, science museum, parks and plazas, and even a civic center.

Bonifacio will be the showcase of successful public-private sector partnerships.

Bonifacio shall be a City for the Mind, the Body, and the Soul, and as its motto states—"The Way Life Should Be."

Q: What will government get from all of these development?

At As of April 30, 2008, BCDA has generated P26.4 billion from the disposition proceeds of former military camps in Metro Manila, like Fort Bonifacio. The distribution of the disposition proceeds is governed by Republic Act No. 7917 and its subsequent implementing issuances.

The biggest share of BCDA's disposition proceeds go to the AFP specifically for its modernization and the replacement of other locations of military facilities affected by these developments.

Aside from the beneficiaries mandated in RA 7917, the investments and job creation are the direct results of the development in Bonifacio and other former Metro Manila military camps. Bonifacio Global City alone has a total investments of P4.9 billion as of 2007 and has created 12,500 jobs so far. Bonifacio has an investment of P7.5 billion as of mid-2007, generating 3,000 jobs. BPOs located in Bonifacio shall be generating thousands of jobs.

Furthermore, the share of BCDA in the disposition proceeds are mandated under RA 7227 to fund the conversion of the special economic zone, which were former US military bases, like Clark, Poro Point and John Hay. Following are BCDA's initiatives:

a. BCDA funded the P800-million upgrade of the fast-to-Manila Airport to be a regional airport where PAL flights will resume. This supports the hotel, golf course and tourism development of Tuscan Point in Poro Point and Special Economic Zones, which have already invested P680 million in Poro Point projects.

b. BCDA has been funding, and will continue to financially assist, Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC), which is developing the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, until CIAC becomes financially independent, which is projected to be by next year.

c. BCDA successfully negotiated the Revised Lease Agreement with Camp John Hay Development Corp., restructuring the payment of unpaid rentals of P2.686 billion, and realizing P300 million up-front cash in the process. More importantly, Ayala Land, Inc. became a sublessee of CJHDevelo for 12 hectares for the development of a commercial and entertainment center with P5 billion in investments.

d. BCDA completed and opened the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, opening the corridor that connects Subic, Clark and Tarlac, and paving the way for the development of a major logistics hub for the Asia-Pacific region.

A developer should be able to bring great value to the development

THE ADMIRABLE growth of the Philippine economy is sought new investments to Bonifacio

FEATURES IN BRIEF

Durano's call

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM is inviting travel and tour stakeholders—entrepreneurs, hotels, resorts, airlines and transport service providers, to join Cebu's upcoming major tourism trade to position as Europe which will be held in the last quarter of the year.

"Our presence in Rome has an insider take a confidence and drive to bring in the European market which remains one of our highest spenders," said Tourism Secretary Ace Durano.

First on DOT's schedule is the Travel Trade Bazaar in Rome. It is a premier business-to-business travel trade event in Italy which will be held on Oct. 24-26 at Rimini Fiera, Italy and will be attended by decision-makers in the European travel industry.

"This is something that's unique for business planning because budgetary considerations are decided straight away," added Durano.

Next is the Dive Show 2008 at Birmingham, England to be held on Nov. 1-2 at the National Exhibition Center, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

More than 300 exhibitors from 50 countries attend the event every year.

The Dive Show 2008 is sponsored by Diver, Nature's leading diving magazine.

Durano said the Philippines wanted to entice the Europeans to experience the country's eleven diving destinations—Bahanginan, Bohol and several parts of Palawan.

Another diving prospect is the Euromaxx Group of Companies in Gamar Iron Star Carabinieri is the vessel of Kahi Lanka, the French version of the famous Survivor reality show.

Sogod Bay in Leyte, Malapascua in Cebu, and Apo Island in Negros, which are fast gaining popularity for their coral reefs and aquatic resources, will also be introduced to the Dive Show.

The third is the World Travel Market 2008 on Nov. 15-13 at Excel Docklands, London.

"The WTM is a crucial entry point to the UK's outbound market, with an average turnout of 50,000 industry professionals from 200 countries and regions," Durano said.

WTM is a must attend opportunity for inspiring, impressive ways to drive generating business, attendees will have the opportunity to learn industry innovations and gain competitive advantage, Durano added.

HRAB conference

THE HOTEL AND Restaurant Association of Baguio will hold a National Motherhood Marketing Leadership Conference on Oct. 23 to 25 at the Baguio Country Club.

With the theme "Forging Transformational Motherhood Partnerships for Development," the conference will have speakers from the Philippine Marketing Association, which has just now hosted the World Marketing Conference at the SMDC Convention Center.

Past past PMA presidents, the current president and two directors of the group will be joined by the chief executive of the Philippine Franchising Association and an Ilocos Norte governor for marketing seminars to shake up the center of tourism.

The HRAB said the conference was in line with its mission to be a partner in the city in boosting local and international tourism.

HRAB president Anthony de Leon said this conference was relevant as Baguio prepares for its centennial anniversary next year.

Termite treatment

THE PROVINCE known for its pardon people and sugar plantations can now receive effective, environment-friendly termite treatment.

Bantricon® Termite Colony Elimination System was recently made available in Negros Occidental through Laiyoa Pest-Insulation Agro Chem, and Pest Control Services Inc., locally known as VS Pestmasters.

ARD Pestmasters president Victor B. Co-Pamaran Jr. says Negros Occidental is an area of about 10- to 50-percent agricultural land, making it prone to termite infestation.

The company, operating in Bacolod City and in Negros Occidental for the last six years, uses active bait by Ming & Co. to deny subterranean treatments using Sentricon® Termite Colony Elimination System, a baiting technology that protects many of the world's richest cities and many homes and properties. "As a national distributor, we can fully choose the suppliers we represent in the Philippines. We see our role as a very important link in providing the pest control and public health needs of Filipinos," says Dr. Dillagan, marketing manager of Ming & Co.

Dillagan, stressing the need for termite treatment in the area, said previous researches showed that about 80 percent of the properties inspected in the area were infested.

"We take it beyond that the property owners did not employ preventive termite control," he said.

Sun Shop moves

SUN SHOP at the SM City Cebu recently transferred to the malls' North Wing, Level 2. Operations are.

Sun Shop offers prepaid SIM packs and call cards, accepts prepaid applications and bills payments. It also offers the Sun Retailer Kit, a business starter set for those who want to sell Sun's prepaid items.

Pharex turns 20

PHAREX HEALTH Corp., a company that provides quality and affordable medicines in the country, is celebrating its 20th year in business.

A subsidiary of Pascual Laboratories Inc., Pharex pioneered the so-called "unbranded" medicines in the Philippines.

"Our guiding light through the years has been our constant memo to quality and innovative health care products and services, especially in the area of generic medicine, to both the public and the medical community," says Pharex Health Corp. president Teresa Marcelo Aguas III.

"As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we promise to be more dedicated than ever to bring good and to help Filipinos live a healthier life," Aguas said.

Pharex offers a wide range of medicines covering 15 therapeutic categories ranging from vitamins, anti-infectives, antipains to chronic care.

Pharex has also initiated a program that helps doctors get updated with the latest developments and issues in medicine. Called Pharex Med-I-T, or Pharex Medical Information and Communications Services, the program stands out among similar initiatives by the fact that all information presented are disease-related and not product-focused.

Apart from providing events, to medical articles, Pharex also ties up with medical societies and hospital departments in conducting medical and training seminars, obstetrics-gynecological conferences and roundtable discussions.

Pharex started handling the marketing and distribution of Pascual's generic products, whereas prescriptions and medical supplies two decades ago.

In 1999, Pharex strengthened its presence by expanding and commercializing on unbranded product lines as well as enable Magnum promotional campaign with medical representatives.

Pharex soon headed the sales promotion campaign of alternative medicines in 1996 with the launch of Bioral Lagundi and Pro-Bell Ginkgo.

In 2004, Pharex ventured its entry into the field of chronic care with its Pharex Biomaxx line.

Hacienda Escudero's Agritainment Park combines leisure with education

LANDSCAPE Agritainment park

WORLD-CLASS BIODIVERSITY, and tourist destination Hacienda Escudero will soon have another exciting addition to its growing list of leisure amenities—the Agritainment Park.

When completed, it would offer visitors an educational experience that combines the ecological diversity of a zoo with the "natural" feel of the outdoors. It would cater to educational field trips for all ages, and could also accommodate walk-to-see-to-fro picnic, sightseeing and other recreational activities, according to developers.

The Agritainment Park will feature a high-tech hydroponics farm, providing an interactive component for visitors.

"With food shortages here and there, the farm will remind visitors of the importance of agriculture," says Jun Lago of Landco Pacific, and the development's project leader.

The walkway fanning out from the entrance will have fruit trees and vegetables that Hacienda Escudero actually sells to local markets.

"Agritainment Park complements other parts of Hacienda Escudero," says Lago. "It's a great deviation from some of the Hacienda's existing tourist outlets."

On its own though, it stands as a destination in its own right, especially in the south of Metro Manila.

Among the Agritainment Park's would-be attractions is a big-themed aviary. Inside, guests may enjoy the presence of pheasants, doves and wild birds that roam freely in their environment.

Surrounding the aviary are a fish and aquatic dimension, as well as enclosure for flightless birds and various exotic animals.

The park will also offer visitors more intimate encounters with the area's resident animals through a petting zoo. Here, children can pet and play with farm animals like sheep, goats and even hamsters. And if you're looking to snack on something sweet, there'll also a home mall at the center of the park for handmade edibles.

Visitors may also opt to go straight to the park's 2,000-square-meter fishing lake. Here, guests can go fishing and, later, pay for their fresh catch. But if you're not to keen on going to the waters, nearby picnic huts let you leisurely watch others do the reeling.

A park will not be complete without its own plant garden, and Hacienda Escudero's Agritainment Park's botanical gardens will feature different species of indigenous plants.

To add variety, the developers have designed it in such way that the gardens' atmosphere changes into different themes as you pass through. You may find yourself in a tropical environment in one stage, and an oasis landscape or an orchard in the next.

The 4-hectare park incorporates a holistic approach to tourism.

Apart from the various ecological gardens, kiosks and booths dot the park, providing visitors with souvenirs, as well as welcome refreshments during their rest. Food stalls and restaurants would be conveniently located outside and near the park as well.

The Agritainment Park is just one part of Hacienda Escudero's vast leisure district in Tarang, Quezon.

Upon completion, the district will host of a water park with cable wakeboarding facilities, resort and convention hotels, shopping and dining facilities and an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Philippine golfing legend Frankie Miñoza.

EXPLORING one of the park's various gardens

ANDA produce from the Agritainment Farm

It's an educational experience, combining the ecological diversity of a zoo with the natural feel of the outdoors

'There's no taste like home'

At the dining table, family members forge ties to last them a lifetime

THE FAMILY DINING AREA is the area frequently used space in any house. There, family members gather during meal times every single day. Apart from dining, family members get to discuss important matters, cheer, or engage in light conversation, forging deep ties.

At the dining table, people are free to express themselves about they are craving for daily.

It is the quintessential comfort zone that does not discriminate. The food laid out on the table is for everyone to share.

Such level of dining comfort is what family restaurants usually aspire for.

Due to the Philippines, the closest one can get in studying such an experience may be found at Pancake House.

With "Welcome Home," a series of billboard ads reflecting the themes of dining comfort at Pancake House, the **restaurant** wants everyone to find right at home while enjoying its delectable dishes and desserts.

"The dining experience at Pancake House can be as warm, familiar and relaxed, that one can be at their most comfortable moments—even in their pajamas," said Bernadette Lee, brand group managing director of Pancake House. "We want Pancake House to become an extension of one's home, especially when it comes to dining. At Pancake House, it is like you're eating right in your own home."

With a new tag line that says "there's no taste like home," Pancake House strengthens the bond between customers and the brand.

Since it was established in 1974 as a family restaurant offering classic favorites like spaghetti, chicken, tacos, shaken and, of course, pancakes, Pancake House educates its relationship with generations of Filipino diners who have grown to love the restaurant like a home that they will always come back to.

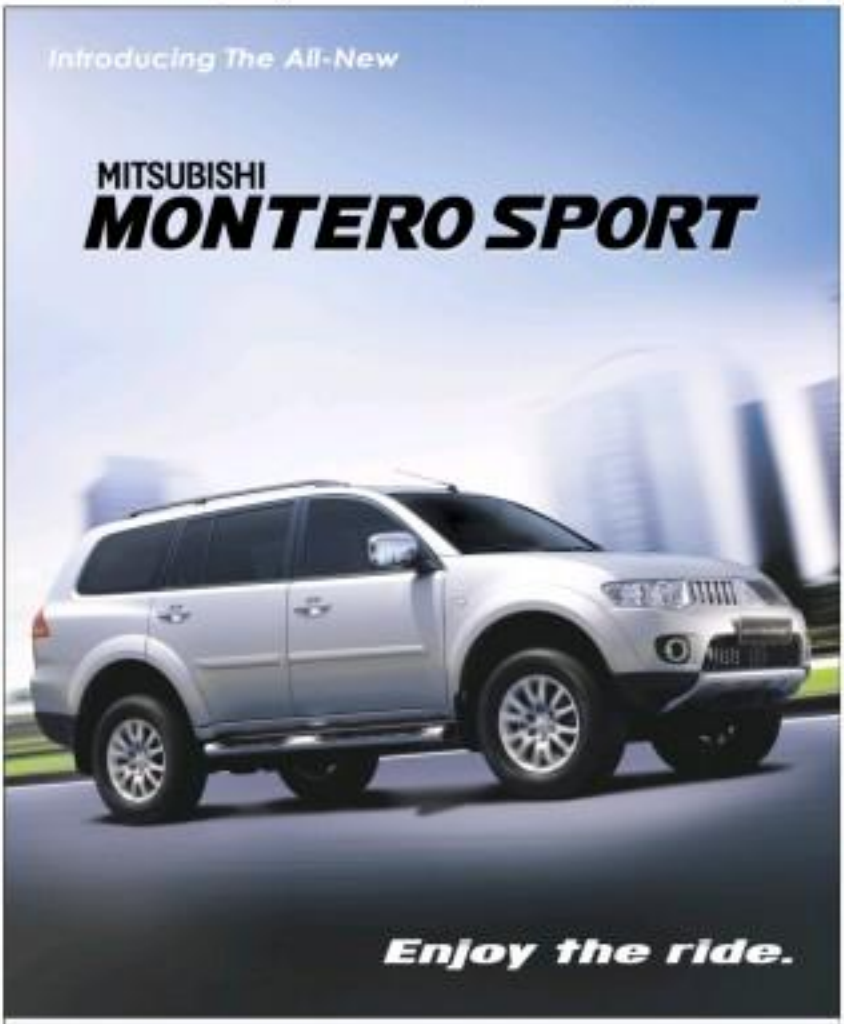
With this kind of branding, Pancake House is continuously investing in its restaurants, be it the physical service, warm ambience and close customer relations that is has come to be known for.

Pancake House presently has 70 branches. New Pancake House outlets are located at the Bonifacio drill, Taguig; Manila Ocean Park & Wallace Mart, North Edsa.

For inquiries call 894-2080.

PANCAKE House wants everyone to feel right at home while enjoying their favorite dishes and delectable desserts.

MMLDC marks 9th year with LGU partnership, outreach program



Enjoy the comfortable ride of the Montero Sport.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS
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THE MEMALCO DEVELOPMENT Center (MMLDC) is marking its ninth year as an educational foundation by forging an important partnership with the city government of Antipolo and by helping improve the toilet facilities of two public schools.

"We are very blessed to have our several various challenges throughout nine years of operations," said Agnes Devanadera, managing director of MMLDC. "With the partnership and outreach, we want to give back to the community where we are located and make the public school students of Antipolo part of the MMLDC family."

The partnership was sealed through a memorandum of agreement signed last Aug. 11 at the ABS Hall. The partnership signifies the support of the city government of Antipolo for MMLDC's groundbreaking project, "Lakbay Kaalaman."

Also, Antipolo City renewed its partnership with another company Meralco in "educating third-party awareness [public safety] and pilferage of electricity."

"MMLDC advocates the promotion and education of environmental stewardship among students in the public school system," Devanadera said. "The Antipolo City government is committed in providing support to any project that enhances the improvement of the public school system. Thus, it is timely that MMLDC, as an educational foundation, partners with Antipolo City for this endeavor."

With the MOA, MMLDC will provide educational tours for 2,100 students of the public elementary schools within the Division of Antipolo. This will be held until November 2009.

"MMLDC will provide the program which includes the bird show, storytelling, games with prizes, giveaways, and sun safety and function tours during the tour," Devanadera added. "This will not only be a fun tour for them but will also instill in their young minds the importance of preserving the environment."

MMLDC did not only donate toilet and urinals for the Marikenque Elementary and High Schools, but constructed and repaired the facilities as well. As part of its continuing advocacy to protect the environment, MMLDC also provided signages on water conservation. On Aug. 19, the donation was formalized with the turnover of the facilities to the students and faculty of both schools.

For inquiries on MMLDC programs, call (02) 422-8111, e-mail mmldc.marikina@gmail.com, or visit the website at www.mmldc.org.

BUSINESS Monday

Coffee farming as alternative business career

COFFEE farmers earn as much as P40,000 per hectare

NIDA HERRERA WAS A MERE "weekend farmer" several years ago. After taking up coffee farming "more seriously" in the last two years, he now earns more as a coffee farmer than as an accountant in Judson Realty.

Like Herrera, more and more of the country's farmers in Mindanao are encouraged to plant coffee due to competitive market prices, increasing coffee demand, and the availability of advanced farming technology which focus on improving yields and bean quality. Up to 300,000 Filipinos are presently dependent on coffee for their livelihood.

In fact, coffee is one of the most valuable commodities on the planet. It is the most consumed beverage globally, and a second only to oil as the most valuable commodity exported by developing countries.

Good farming practices

Two years ago, Herrera attended a coffee farming seminar at Nestlé's Experimental and Demonstration Farm (NEDF) in Tagum City, Davao. There, he learned about the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C).

4C is a voluntary code adopted by coffee producers, traders and others involved in coffee growing, processing and trading. Efficient production, profitability, transparency and agricultural sustainability are the goals of 4C.

Equipped with this new knowledge, Herrera was able to transform his once idle coffee farm to a profitable business in a short period of time.

Why coffee farming?

Even small farmers can readily start coffee farming as it needs only a minimal investment. Labor and materials cost just around P40,000 per hectare. Coffee farmers earn as much as P98,000 per hectare, or more than double their investment starting on the third year after planting.

"Many local farmers do not know and appreciate this fact, so they lose out on a good income opportunity," says Eddie Boyle of NEDF.

"Unlike other crops, coffee farming requires little management," Boyle adds. "It's actually easy because it's not full time. You don't have to be there for the farm everyday as long as you have a trained farmer-in-charge and farm supplies are provided on time."

For years, he said his fellow agriculturists at NEDF have helped train farmers to plant and grow coffee.

Coffee farming 101

The Philippines' climate is really suitable for growing Robusta robusta, among the coffee varieties, commands the biggest demand locally.

Eighty-five percent of our requirement is for Robusta coffee, the balance of 15 percent goes to Arabica, Liberica and Excelsa.

Essentially, as long as Robustas get a healthy amount of sunlight (not too much shade) and are planted on land that does not get water-logged or flooded, Robusta coffee can be grown successfully and profitably.

One can grow coffee in two ways. Richer (bare) seeds or from record cuttings. Of the two planting methods used for propagating coffee, use of cuttings is encouraged, because cuttings need a shorter time to grow and mature, and give 30- percent higher yield than coffee seedlings from seeds. Hence you can get several cuttings from a "mother plant," cuttings greatly increase the number of plants a farmer can produce in a shorter span of time.

Taking care of the coffee plant involves weeding, pruning, and fertilization to keep them healthy and productive. Insect attacks on coffee plants are not as prevalent as those of other crops like corn and bananas, and are easily controlled or prevented with proper management.

From planting, it takes approximately 18 months for a coffee plant to produce its first harvest. With proper care, a coffee tree can live up to 30 years, so farmers can keep on harvesting for a long period of time.

"Sometimes the planters themselves are gone, but their coffee trees are still there producing berries," Boyle jokes.

If the farmers' coffee beans turn out to be of good quality, then they can be assured of a ready buyer for their beans such as Nestlé, maker of the country's leading coffee brand Nescafé.

Nestlé Philippines Inc. operates eight buying stations all over the country, on top of the manufacturing center at the Coffee Factory in Cagayan de Oro City.

The Philippines is next only to Japan in the consumption of coffee consumed in Asia. However, since 1997, the country has been importing coffee from neighboring countries like Vietnam and Indonesia because of continuous growth in local demand. If we can increase production in our coffee farms, it will help make our country less dependent on imported coffee.

Coffee is the most consumed beverage globally, and the second most valuable commodity exported by developing countries

EVEN small farmers can readily start coffee farming as it needs only minimal investment

PMAP conference to tackle human capital issues

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT EXperts are expected to draw up proposals to address critical human capital issues facing the country today when they gather for a conference.

At the year's 43rd annual conference of the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)—the country's premier organization of human resource practitioners and people managers—delegates are expected to discuss human capital issues such as the learning talent crunch, outdated talent management, the widening skills gap, and the impending baby boomer retirement.

The conference, dubbed "In The Mix," is slated this September in Baguio City and is expected to draw over 1,500 HR practitioners and people managers all over the country.

"We have to act on these critical human capital issues so we can mobilize our country's people managers to face the challenges of borderless workforce and increasing global competitiveness," Bernadette Cunanan, PMAP vice president and this year's conference chair, said in a briefing. "There is a dire need to get on the table strategies on how to retain our human capital on home soil, and many others issues affecting our workforce today."

The theme "In The Maghahalo," according to Cunanan, is aimed at putting across the message that, in today's search for solutions and competitive advantage, experience other shows that people make the difference.

"This is the reason why this year's PMAP annual conference is aimed at driving home the point that truly people possess true sustainable core competency, not tribon, nor technology," Cunanan said.

Schubert Ciasnet C. Asuncion, PMAP director and the conference's programs committee chair, added that "success belongs to the people managers who can unleash and maximize the creative potential of their people.

"We are taking neighborliness [people do make the difference]," Asuncion added.

The conference, which will start on Sept. 24, will feature lectures, speeches, round table discussions, and plenary sessions that revolve around one of the five human resource management practices to be given by HR practitioners and people managers in the discipline, according to Asuncion.

"The three-day conference will benefit 100 managers as well as people managers so that they will acquire diverse advance to alternative solutions and customizing measures, learning from the prerogative to decide which ones will best work for them," Asuncion said.

"We enjoin PMAP members as well as all people managers to take advantage of the new learning they will take away from the conference, in the face of human capital issues that are core workplaces encounter, as well as contribute to the country's efforts in attaining the competitive advantage in human capital," Asuncion added.

"The conference boasts of top calibre practitioners in the field from here and abroad, starting with keynote speaker, Geoff Armstrong, secretary general of the World Federation of Personnel Management Associations, who will talk on 'Creating a Culture of Excellence that Empowers People to Make a Difference,'" Asuncion said.

The other speakers are Andrew Huang, chief financial officer of Philippine Airlines; Manuel Lopez, chair and CEO of Monsito Monteverd Synergies Spring, chief operating officer of Lufthansa Technik; Benjamin Bermas and Linda Dwight of JD Consulting; Graeme Field, regional director of Watson Wyatt; Jesus Estanislao Jr., managing director of ZMG Signum Mind Storefront; Imelda Cuenco, senior vice president of United Laboratories Inc.; Victorico Vargas, senior vice president of PLDT.

Intel redefines 'bayanihan'

INTEL PHILIPPINES IS TAKING bayanihan, the Filipino's culture of helping neighbors, to a higher level.

As a leading global corporate citizen, Intel relentlessly encourages its employees to do good through volunteerism. In line with this aim, Intel came up with the ingenious Involved Matching Grants Program (IMGP) wherein its employee volunteer hours are matched with cash donations. And the results proved amazing. Intel's IMGP is fast improving students' academic performances and raising teacher productivity across the nation.

With education as one of its top three advocacies, Intel Philippines devotes time and effort to reaching and empowering the youth through technology education.

One success story is the community of General Trias, Cavite—site of Intel Philippines' work base since 1974—which was given extensive laboratories.

But rather than just giving tools, Intel volunteers also facilitated Science and Math tutorials, teaching classes and emergency response training. The volunteers' after-hours efforts resulted in an astounding academic progress among students of Buenavista Elementary School.

And the triumph of Intel Philippines continues.

Volunteerism and IMGP in the Philippines is now expanded in the most successful outside the US where the program piloted.

To date, 2,835 Intel Philippines employees have logged over 310,000 hours of volunteer work with more than 30,000 schoolchildren.

At a rate of $80 per beneficiary for every 20 hours of volunteer work, IMGP has donated a staggering $822,500 (P37 million) to schools, universities and academic clubs throughout the country.

True to their word, Intel has put the IMGP profits to good use, improving infrastructure and giving the children of General Trias, better working and living opportunities.

Gen. Pantas High School, Tropical Village High School and Spilan Elastics School are just some of the institutions gifted with 17 classrooms, five computer laboratories, one media room and one math research center.

The new Intel-sponsored classrooms have actually lowered student-teacher ratio from 50:1 to 40:1. Furthermore, the schools' new computers and modern multimedia equipment and facilities are giving students and teachers the timely opportunity to catch up with the rest of the world.

By improving facilities and generally making school learning more conducive, Intel Philippines has helped many of General Trias' students make the cut to standardized national examinations.

Pasong Kawayan I Elementary School, for instance, ranked first in the Elementary Mathematics Division level in the 2007 National Achievement Test.

Truly, doing good goes a long way.

Apo Cement, Apo Land spend P358M for 'green' programs

GOING BEYOND WHAT IS required by law, Apo Cement Corp. and Apo Land and Quarry Corp. in Naga, Cebu spent some P358 million for their various environmental activities.

This was reported by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Region 7.

Administrative Order No. 96-40 issued by the DENR requires a minimum of 3 to 5 percent of the companies' direct mining and milling costs be spent for their yearly environment management work plan, called the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program.

This means the two member-companies of the Cemex Philippines Group of Companies, based on their mining and milling costs, are required to spend only P1.73 million for the environmental activities.

The industries must adhere to the "principle of sustainable development," without compromising the "preservation and rehabilitation of the disturbed environment."

"The Agap strongly reminds us of our continued commitment to the environment. Environmental responsibility is an imperative for us to Connect at all times and in all places," public affairs director Daniela Marasovic said.

"In fact, the Cemex Chosen eco-label we recently received for both our Solid Cement plant in Antipolo, Rizal and our Apo Cement plant in Naga, Cebu proves this commitment."

The Cemex Chosen Philippines' "Eco-label" final of Approval was given by the National Eco-labelling Board of the Philippines to Solid Cement (Island Portland Cement, Cemex Pilipinas Ring and Head Super) in September 2007 and to APO Cement (APO Portland and APO Pozzolan) in April 2008 for their environmentally preferred products. These awards are given out in accordance with ISO 14024—Type 1 Environmental Labelling, a government standard.

Also, the Cemex Group, through Cemex Philippines Foundation, is also spearheading the establishment of an Adopt-A-Species program to encourage private sector investment in biodiversity conservation.

"We at Cemex believe that these programs, particularly Eco-labelling and Adopt-A-Species, are sustainable ways of getting other businesses to become environmentally responsible. With more and more consumers becoming aware of the environmental problems we are facing, we expect these new consumers over time to patronize only those products and businesses that show their concerns," Marasovic says.

MGB 7 Regional Director Roger de Elera also said that all 14 major mining companies in the region were compliant with the requirements of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Sen. Loren Legarda (second from right) awards the support for programs and projects of persons with disabilities of the Metrobank Foundation Inc., to Undersecretary Rosie Lovely T. Rumuda (3rd from left), chairperson of the National Council on Disability Affairs during the Metrobank Foundation anniversary grants ceremony held recently at the Metrobank Auditorium. Also present during the awarding were (from left) Arsenio M. Sotiangco, president, Metrobank Foundation Inc., Armando S. Abacan Jr., chair, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., Mateo A. Lee Jr., officer-in-charge, NCDA, and George S.K. Ty, group chair, Metrobank Group of Companies.

Expat finds new home in Eastwood Cyberpark

WHILE ANIME WOULD always be a distinctly Japanese art form, its production is no longer exclusively based in Japan.

Because of the scope of stories and themes that anime covers, animated series are being churned out by the dozens.

However, because anime is traditionally hand-driven animation, there are just simply not enough animators in Japan to meet the demand.

So, before the outsourcing industry has even hooked, anime has already been outsourcing the talents of thousands of artists and animators from other countries, including the Philippines.

Toei Animation, one of Japan's top animation companies, has made the move to Eastwood and has long since joined the many multinational companies that have made their home in Eastwood Cyberpark.

In 1965, Toei Animation set up shop in the Philippines, for the same reason business process outsourcing (BPO) firms go here.

The country has a rich throw of talented workers, and it is more economical than South Korea.

Natalia Soya, newly appointed president of Toei Animation Philippines Inc., who has been overseeing operations and quality control here since 1992, says that Toei now has over 170 artists on board.

> For artists of Toei Animation Philippines Inc., the move to Eastwood has been fortuitous

In 2008, Toei moved to Eastwood Cyberpark to make room for their growing roster of animators.

The move has been fortuitous since Eastwood is an IT zone. When Toei's production became computerized, the company was able to avail of tax incentives for five years.

As the purveyors of animated hits such as "Dragon Ball Z," "Slamdunk," "Sailormoon," "Powerpuff Girls," and "Digimon Adventure," Toei Philippines works on all the episodes of four to five TV series every year.

For an idea on the scope of work involved in animation, Soya discloses that a 30-minute episode is made up of 3,500 drawings.

An animator has a quota of 600 drawings a month, so it takes one months to get just one episode out.

Soya admits that the work can get stressful. But the best part, and the most difficult part of the job is that nothing is ever the same.

Every day there's a different problem to solve.

Soya says that the move to Eastwood has been good for employee morale and also for him.

Since he lives in a condominium within Eastwood with fellow Japanese workers, the new location has proven to be very convenient.

Despite long office hours—starting at 10 in the morning and ending as late as 12 in the evening—relaxation for Soya and his colleagues is never too far.

He enjoys going shopping at the mall and trying out the various restaurants right outside his office. He usually goes to Starbucks and Flavors N Eggs, and of course, he tries out the Japanese restaurants.

For him, the Japanese food there comes close enough. After eight years since they've moved, Eastwood has done become Toei's, and Soya's, home away from home.

There's not the Japanese expat's working experience in Eastwood City Cyberpark have been positive. DPO firms would then be well advised to look for a thriving environment with excellent live, work and play conveniences such as Eastwood.

Interested parties may call Megaworld's Business Development division at 812-6756.

Top gold mining execs still bullish despite recent selloff

THE WORLD'S LARGEST GOLD producers remain upbeat about the metal's prospects even after the metal's sharp price decline, boosting their bullishness on declining output, growing demand and a weak dollar.

Executives at last week's Denver Gold Forum, an annual mining industry get-together, downplayed the selloff that had spot gold (XAU) trading at its $755 an ounce on Friday, sharply below its all-time high of $1,030.80 set on March 17 and a secondary peak of $987.78 on July 15.

"We are very bullish on the gold price. The supply-demand fundamentals are very good," Alex Davidson, executive vice president for exploration and corporate development of gold producer Barrick Gold Corp, told in an interview.

Davidson said he expected gold supply to "fall off year over year, and demand is very strong from India, China, the Middle East and Turkey. We continue to see weakness in the dollar over the long term, and negative real interest rates, and all these are good for gold."

Gold jewelry buying to rise

Even after its sharp decline, the price of gold remains far higher than its 2001 level of $256 an ounce, investors have ignored how the market more often on inflation fears amid a commodity boom.

Richard O'Brien, CEO of Newmont Mining Corp., predicted gold would rise in the long run despite fluctuations.

In his presentation, O'Brien said the forces that lower prices and reduced volatility should revive gold jewelry buying, which will account for 70 percent of global gold demand.

Sir Richard Sykes, CEO of Kroger Michigan, which was the world's biggest gold mine in Grasberg in Indonesia, gold has always been a financial asset and that is it was mostly hit hard by market forces outside of the commodity sector.

Supply challenges

"While the dollar strengthening, that certainly had an impact on the gold price. And gold is always going to be much more affected by worldwide economic factors than physical supply and demand," Sykes said in an interview on Wednesday.

Gold supply should remain limited due to difficulties in finding new gold reserves, soaring operating costs, labor shortages and a lack of skills, top executives told Reuters at the Denver gold show. They predicted it would take a long time for miners to bring new projects into production.

"We think that the mining of gold in South Africa from the depth of 2 to 3 kilometers will get more and more expensive. There is a cost pressure from many producers, which will not be profitable at a level below $700. We think that will result in the gold price growing," Reginald Foster, CEO of Russia's No. 1 gold miner Polyus Gold, said in an interview.

Africa-focused Randgold Resources CEO Mark Bristow stood by his aggressive gold forecast of over $1,200 on account by the end of 2008, citing favorable macroeconomic factors.

No to hedging

"If gold stays above $800 or $900, it's a bonus for us," Bristow said in an interview on Monday.

To action that echo the opinions of mining executives, gold producers have been buying back their hedges, exposing themselves fully to the rising potential of the metal.

"We believe it's a good time

BUSINESS Monday

Aiming for the bottom: Approach to value creation in emerging markets

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Nicolo S. Poblador

THE BOTTOM, OR BASE, OF the pyramid is a term used to describe the poorest members of society—technically, those living on less than US$2 a day.

In his most recent book, "The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid: Eradicating Poverty Through Profits," C. K. Prahalad, a management guru of note, expressed his contentment when people started to list the poor as economic brothers.

Instead, Prahalad regarded the poor as potential sources of economic value.

If this observation is valid, then there is a coming need to **re-invent strategy to cater** that is focused on a large and largely untapped market at the base of the pyramid. Yet obvious concerns, such a business model will be most appropriate for emerging markets.

One to major shifts in the world's economic centers of gravity, and concomitant changes in the economic features of nations arising from long-term changes in economic drivers, comes mainly from the knowledge or information that is embedded in them. The use of producing additional units of these products and services tends to diminish progressively as more units are produced.

By designing innovative versions of these products and services that serve the more sparing and simpler needs of potential customers at the same performance of variety, and actively involving the intended customers in a process of co-creation, these products and services can be made available to a very large potential market.

The opportunities for generating revenues—and shareholder value—are staggering.

The need to develop alternative business models in the light of economic shifts in the world's economic landscape is among the many business and economic issues that will be discussed in the 7th Management Association of the Philippines International CEO Conference that will be held on Oct. 7 and 8 at the Makati Shangri-La.

One of those invited to speak at the conference is iconic Filipino business leader Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, 2006 MAP Management Man of the Year, who will discuss a new and different strategic thrust for the Ayala Group of Companies for the coming years.

His talk will be in keeping with the new business model which "aims for the bottom."

Allow me to quote from the synopsis of Zobel de Ayala's talk, entitled "Sustainable Business Solutions that Engage the Base of the Pyramid—A Way Forward for Growth."

"Doing business in an emerging market poses the twin challenges of addressing the needs and the untapped potential of the more significant number of customers/consumers coming from lower income segments and taking a more active catalytic role in poverty alleviation and the overall social agenda.

"Business models or strategies that deliberately target the broader base of the social pyramid by investing or co-investing in market specific products through the innovative use of technology, developing relationships with cross-functional partners, and building local capacity can prove to be sustainable, financially viable, and value-enhancing for both businesses and the community at large.

"By focusing on the needs of, and the untapped potentials of, the social pyramid, and by tying up their strategic moves with their initiatives in corporate social responsibility, business firms not only open the option for added revenues, but also contribute toward the development of better markets for their higher-end products and services. Most importantly, from the viewpoint of overall social development, this serves the desperate needs of our impoverished society."

In my opinion, Zobel de Ayala's speech at the conference will be an eye opener for most participants as it will give them a rare view in the millionaire mindset of one of the country's leading business establishments.

It will also be a harbinger of a new 'business philosophy that seeks to involve all stakeholders in the creation of economic value.

For more information on the MAP conferences, please visit mapconferences.com.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge management consultant. Feedback at nsp@philonline.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph)

Delightful amenities abound in The Venice

The life of convenience can be addicting, but so can relaxation and culture, for which it is not devoid!

No matter how much you hate living amid the metro's loud, fast-paced life, you still find yourself longing for those late-night coffee breaks or the convenience of being just a drive away from the nearest shopping mall. Yet despite the ease of living at the center of everything, sometimes you just want some peace and quiet. Sometimes, you just want to go nature-tripping, even if it is no simple act owning an exotic locale. The Venice Luxury Residences, Megaworld's newest project in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, offers the best of both worlds. Inspired by the European city famous for its grandeur, The Venice combines a unique atmosphere and picturesque landscape with the bustling bliss of the city with all its sights, sounds and tastes.

Grounds to Marvel

A soothing oasis awaits you inside The Venice's pampered environment. One of the 19 amenities at the third level will surely entrance your every mood. Spend leisurely times lounging under the sun at the open air pool area. Swim the day away with your kids under Venice' sands. Or maybe read a good book with the rippling lakes Mediterranean in the.

Gym freaks will not be a problem with the Venice suites just as discussed. Take note. There are courts for badminton and tennis to keep your body in shape. You can also practice your yoga and Pilates poses at the multi-purpose gazebo. After this workout, head off to the specialized sauna center to relax and rejuvenate those tired muscles.

You can also enjoy the comforts of living with furnished rooms, shed floors and built-in cabinets inside your unit. With a great view of The Venice's towers—shaped like a gondolier's oar found from above—as well as blissful surroundings, you will not want to leave your home, especially with 24-hour security service and fire alarm systems to keep you safe.

Even the lobby is a venue to behold with its plush receiving area, its high ceilings complemented by tall curtain glass and period paintings, all give it both elegant vibe.

The luxurious resort-style pool of The Venice is bordered by sculptures of mythological gods, including Venus

Posh leisure hub

Step outside and you'll enter an entirely different world. From this, you can already see the quintessential side of Venice with the gondolier. Just line up the man-made Grand Canal. Enjoy romantic rides with gondoliers while basking in the views of restaurants and shops lining the canal. Admire the Rialto Bridge, a replica of Venice's famous icon, and see the St. Mark's Tower, inspired by the "campanile" at the Piazza San Marco in Venice.

The Venice's Piazza Grande plays host to a shopaholic's dream mix of specialty shops and branded outlets. Score the hills for unique resale finds. Find Murano glass, hand-painted masks and antiques. The Piazza's two-level commercial center also hosts some of the best dining hangouts as well as quaint coffee shops for nightcaps. And despite the European ambiance, you still find a variety of flavors—from Italian trattoria-inspired restaurants to British pubs and Japanese sushi bars to Chinese take-out places. If Venetian flavors are what your palate craves, try the line of restaurants at The Boardwalk. Overlooking the Grand Canal, it is the perfect place for a romantic dinner for two.

Just walking along the covered walkway is an experience. During the day, enjoy the picturesque view while walking your dog along Piazza Grande or bring out your artistic soul by painting the colorful play of light as the sun reaches the Grand Canal's surface. At night, you can choose from a variety of activities including art exhibits, concerts, local shows, stand-up acts and native shows. A cinema house is right across the Piazza, just in case you want to catch the latest movie out.

Megaworld VVP for Marketing and project head Noel Hernandez (left) and Paolo Marcos proudly launch The Venice scale model. Mr. Marcos is the principal of Italian architectural firm Paolo Marcos Architetto, which Megaworld consulted to make sure The Venice remains true to its Venetian inspiration.

It's only the best of both worlds. Enjoy the Old World charm of Venice—from its stunning architecture to its romantic atmosphere—and in the center of it all, Piazza Grande's premier location. "I believe plus convenience—it doesn't get any better than that," said Megaworld VVP for Marketing and project head Noel Hernandez.

For more information on The Venice Luxury Residences, please call 815-1888, 816-2388, 893-7017 or visit the showroom at Upper McKinley Road corner Florence Way, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

MEGAWORLD

FERNANDO Zobel, Kirbie Silverio Zobel, Linda Zobel and Jaime Augusto Zobel

LIFESTYLE Arts & Books

Editor Thelma Bacon-San Juan Arts and Books Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Gala dinner toasts Amorsolo

STORY ON PAGE C1

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Gala dinner toasts Amorsolo

'In the room the women come and go, talking of Amorsolo . . .'

FERNANDO C. Amorsolo is one of the most important artists in the history of Philippine art.

He was a portraitist and a painter of rural Philippine landscapes, using a natural backlighting technique that left family chronicler the luminous golden glow of the sun's rays on his subjects.

Amorsolo painted outdoors, directly from nature, to be able to catch the effect of light on objects through the use of colors. He saw light and color everywhere even in the darkest of shadows.

He sketched directly from nature: landscapes and people going about the manners of everyday life, including the ricecycle from planting to harvest.

In 1972, he was declared the country's first National Artist for Painting.

The multi-museum exhibit "Fernando C. Amorsolo: His Art, Our Heart" reinvestigates the magical dialogue that only art is capable of.

A cultural coup, it is a celebration of our Filipino heritage through the masterful works of Amorsolo.

SONIA Zobel-Ayala and Pete Rivada

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos

HELEN Delgado

The exhibit showcases his vibrant artistry in seven different venues from September to April 2009. "Fernando C. Amorsolo: His Art, Our Heart" has opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

Last Friday, a gala dinner and benefit concert honoring the country's top performers — Kuh Ledesma, Eraser Sisot, Joey Ayala, Ima Alvarez, Robert Seña, Mon David, The Company and Cris Villonco — was held in the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The exhibit will also be on view in the following museums: National Museum, BSP Museum, ayala Museum, Lopez Museum, Jorge Vargas Museum and Bellarmine Museum.

Each venue will showcase a different facet of Amorsolo as a great painter of Philippine sunlight and scenery, a portraitist, an illustrator of Filipino culture, a historian and a teacher.

Today his work taps into a collective nostalgia for a time that was kinder and simpler. They evoke a longing for that time and place that for this was real.

His paintings and illustrations of our culture, customs and traditions, helped to clarify and in a sense create a national consciousness that still lives in our heart. Now more than 50 years after his death, he has regained a new level of recognition and respect.

CONCHITINA Bernardo, Vicky Zobel and Brandy Tuason

Gloria Aguirre

Call 4177236 or 8356805. Visit www.amorsolomuseum.com

Are all vaccines created equal?

Not quite. In the quest to help us get more out of our medicines, some vaccines have been formulated with a novel technology known as AS04 adjuvant system. It's been used in hepatitis vaccines to enhance the immune response of recipients, and lately, in the new vaccine against HPV, or Human Papilloma Virus, the virus that causes cervical cancer.[1]

When an HPV vaccine has the AS04 adjuvant, immune response in patients starts higher and lasts longer. So where other vaccines may need booster shots, the HPV vaccine with AS04 adjuvant is designed to provide strong cervical cancer protection that lasts.[2-4]

"AS04 adjuvant system" sounds like something only science teachers know about. But if you care about your health, it's a phrase worth knowing.

Filipiniana updated in NY fashion exhibit

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER, LOCATED IN New York City's premier thoroughfare, Fifth Avenue, was the venue of an exhibit of couture Filipiniana gowns by one of Manila's respected designers, Edgar Allan.

The fashion exhibit was mounted by Alain's business partner Rene Tiongco, a New York-educated fashion merchandiser, as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Edgar Allan Boutique in Diosdado L. Ayala Center, Makati.

Nine terno- and Maria Clara-inspired gowns were exhibited for two weeks on the ground floor of the Philippine Center, with New Yorkers and other visitors marveling at couture gowns which were Filipino in silhouette but very contemporary in texture. Fine fabrics such as fabric and embroidery were abaca and jusi, Edgar created terno in chiffon, velvet, organza and satin with draping, appliqués and beadwork as the major design elements.

The exhibit was opened by New York Consul General Cecilia Rebong and Virginia Daroda, wife of Philippine Ambassador to the UN Hilario Davide.

Government bankers David Eisenberg and wife Holly Rush were some of the early guests, together with Barbara Mueller of United Airlines and Sr. Francis and Ginny Talaroglovat of Philadelphia, whose pretty daughter Ayel modeled one of the gowns.

Visiting from Manila were Nini Ramos Lizarza and Marina Cruz, Ambassador Davide and Ms Calmoralan, wife of the Philippine Ambassador to the Hague, were also guests.

Rhode educator David Fischer and Sherill Antonio, dean of the NY University Film Institute, were literally watching the video presentation of Sampaguita gowns with background symbolic music.

Fashion merchandiser Meg Tan and husband performer Mark Gould were in embroil talk with Tami graphic designer Rodrigo Perez, Mexican architect Roberto Macias and Dr. Trish Mercer, who just came from a medical mission in Bataan. The annual mission, now on its seventh year, is organized by Rene's sister, Dr. Lin Tiongco, who is on faculty at Cornell NY Hospital and whose dermatology practice is on the upper east side of Manhattan.

Banker Irenita Quito, businessmen Vincent Pyopiu, Charles Pringle and culinary expert Aya Kuramura, David Rockefeller's personal chef, were amazed that Philippine fashion could veer away from the ethnic and be adaptable to the West.

Also present were socialite Janette Barth Puls, in a woven fashion jacket, and deputy consul Millie Sta. Maria Thorenfeldt, and young professionals Thomas Welsh, Kate McDowell, Zoe and Wilson Chang, and lawyer Jenny Chaya.

Others present were Maribel Pijuan and husband Larry Greenman, Dr Dane Abril, textile designer Mari Robles and husband, real estate and marketing executive Leo Arbizo, Debra Mallett and Dennis Balmores.

The gowns were later exhibited in the Philippine Consulate on Michigan Avenue in Chicago.

GRACE Ramos, Rene Tiongco, Virginia Daroda, Consul General Cecilia Rebong and Lucy Trono

LOLIT Campo, Houston NY Filipina and designer Edgar Allan

AMBASSADOR Hilario Davide, April Talaroglovat and Virginia Daroda

Concert of well-loved Filipino play songs

THE CONCERT "LAPIT CHILD'S Play" with the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band, will be treasured at the Rockwell Tent, on Oct. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Featuring Moy Reyes and Nicky Morales, the concert seeks to reintroduce today's Filipino children to the country's rich heritage of folk songs.

"Many traditional 'play songs' have been lost to this generation with the decline of our cultural identity," Irene Asuncion, chair of the Young Musicians Development Organization, says.

"Families are re-imagined new arrangements. Our well-loved children will be fun again for today's children to know."

For ticket information and sales for children and pet furniture auction details, call Workon, (632) 29.91092. Ticket also available at Ticketworld, 891-9999.

POSTER for "Lapit"

Cervical cancer is the second-highest killer cancer of women in the Philippines.[1] Every woman is at risk, regardless of age or lifestyle.[2-4] Protect yourself through screening and vaccination. Screening detects the early signs of cancer,[5] while an HPV vaccine with AS04 adjuvant can help protect against HPV 16 & 18, the virus types that account for 71% of cervical cancer cases worldwide.[6]

Ask your doctor about cervical cancer prevention today.

www.soutorcervicalcancer.com.ph

Arts, poetry and music at the 2008 Maningning Miclat Awards

"KATALHAIN, Kasuwohanan," by Buffy T. Hayes

"BLOOMINGLY Red Night," by Rudolf P. Sorriano

THE MANINGNING MICLAT ART FOUN-dation, in cooperation with the Art Circle Gallery and Shangri-La Plaza, will toast the winners of the 2008 Maningning Miclat Art Competition in an evening of arts, poetry and music on Sept. 24, at the Art Plaza of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The grand prize winner shall receive an exquisite glass sculpture trophy by Ramon Orlina, plus P20,000 cash and a special collector's edition of "Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal" by Maria, Alma, Maningning and Ramar Miclat. The book was awarded the National Book Award for Biography last year by the Manila Critics Circle in conjunction with the National Book Development Board.

Thirty-eight paintings shall compete for the award. They have been chosen for exhibit or sale at Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Sept. 19-30, out of over 80 entries coming from around 28 universities, colleges and schools.

The board of judges consists of Orlina, and highly respected artists Danny Dalena and Egai Fernandez.

THE THREE Judges Danny Dalena, Egai Fernandez and Ramon Orlina

The board has listed their preliminary choices for 12 semi-finalists. They include (in alphabetical order of their respective schools): Abigail C. Dimiatio of Bulacan State University; Buffy T. Hayes and Rudolf V. Sorriano of Balagtas Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology; Mary Grace Limpoc of the Eastern University; Jerome G. Revilla of De La Salle University; Alexander M. Roxas of Polytechnic University of the Philippines; Janelle Tang of St. Scholastica's College; Sherwin College of Technological University of the Philippines; Emmanuel E. Jacinto and Billy Junio A. Francisco of the University of the East; Bjorn Randy V. Taling of the University of the Philippines Diliman; and Elvin John F. Villar of University of Santo Tomas.

National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera will formally cut the ribbon opening the exhibit. A gallery favorite will also be awarded cash prize by the Art Circle Gallery some awards night.

The ceremonies shall feature poetry reading by authors and poets Kip Yeun, Neil C. Garcia, Michael Coroza, Bemildo Santos, Bumble Herrera, Kris Lanot Lacuba and Maningning Miclat Poetry Award winners of 2005 and 2007, Miss Pantasia and Raymond Jubes de Borja.

Mia Lloch Tuason and Carol Stella will give an opening song number. Author Hi-Jaruca will give a dance number. Girl Valencia will close the program with Pete Lacaba's "Salitaan" as well as her own composition and Maningning's poem set to music by Joey Ayala. Writer-teacher and Bear Award awardee Wendell Capili will be master of ceremonies.

Named in honor of the China-born visual artist, bilingual poet, writer and teacher, Maningning Miclat, MMAFI first held the painting competition in 2004. It is held during even-numbered years alternating with the poetry competition held during odd-numbered years since 2003.

Miclat won the grand prize in the non-representational category of the Art Association of the Philippines Art Competition in 1992 with her oil painting "Trouble in Paradise." She penned a trilingual book of poetry, "Tales from the Underworld" (Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2000), the only book of poetry in Filipino, English and Chinese languages written by one author. She died on Sept. 29, 2000.

Maningning Miclat was co-author, if posthumously of the book, "Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal" (Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2004). The National Book Award citation by the Manila Critics Circle reads: "From 1971 to 1986, the Miclat family lived in the People's Republic of China and this gathering of essays from Maria, Alma, Ramar and the late Maningning Miclat flow together in a majestic yet personal recollection of a time and place, between times and places. 'Beyond the Great Wall' signifies the act of celebration through memory, and moving on through remaining."

Visit www.maningning.com. Email maningning@yahoo.com or acmiclat2006@yahoo.com.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Metal man

Daniel de la Cruz celebrates the inherent power and harmony in women—as well as the fluidity and fineness of metal—in his latest sculptures

By Joy Rojas
Correspondent

DANIEL DE LA CRUZ MAY have started his career in art a little too late, but the 42-year-old metal sculptor has certainly made up for any lost time.

Like "Kandungan," his first exhibition at Ayala Center's Art Space, and the sensitive Ocia sculptures created for his second show at the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza third-floor lobby, "Ulang," De la Cruz's third exhibit at Ayala Museum Sept. 20-29, is a statuesque bit—even before its offbeat unveiling.

De la Cruz, normally oblique collector with a preview of his upcoming works in his home, actually accommodated other followers and friends with a pre-preview. With eight small sculptures out of the original 20-piece collection still up for grabs, the sculptor's only problem, he says humorously, "is re-planning to everyone who—sensu to the preview—why almost everything has already been sold."

One look at his work and it's easy to see why A still described "Kan" of women. De la Cruz interprets the latter sex with simple curves and a pure-like shape, a form, he feels, that captures their "softness, grace, beauty and strength."

While "Kandungan" paid tribute to the nurturing, protective side of his subject, [illegible] sculptures of women draped like reading chairs and benches), "Ulang" celebrates the power and inherent mutability of [illegible] as creation.

Enthralled with a team of six artisans, De la Cruz's sculptures are all handmade "with great difficulty," using brass, lead and copper that appears fluid and free in his hands, thanks to a method he developed and perfected through the years. Though he works with as many as six sculptures at a time, the pieces take weeks, even months, to complete. Still, De la Cruz isn't complaining.

"It's tiring and it's golden rice—a lot busier," HEHL/04

THE ARTIST

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Why Tubbataha Reef is a World Heritage site

HOT at life in Tubbataha is underwater.

THE CAUSTICILLID snail is a sanctuary for birdlife as well as marine life.

TUBBATAHA REEF OFF REMOTE Cagayancillo Island in Palawan was the first natural site from the Philippines inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage list in 1993, an inscription so appropriate for an archipelago like the Philippines where the sea is the principal life giving force, the center of people's lives.

Why is Tubbataha of World Heritage quality?

The Unesco World Heritage Committee that reviews all nominations to the World Heritage list says that it is one of the most outstanding coral reefs in the region, with one of the densest groupings of coral and marine life in the world.

It further affirms that in the 33,200 hectares of the Tubbataha Reef Marine Park is seen a unique example of an atoll reef with a very high density of marine species.

The site is an excellent example of a pristine coral reef with a spectacular 100-meter perpendicular wall encrusted with marine life. Also, it has extensive lagoons and two coral islands.

The North Reef is a nesting site for birds and marine turtles.

Tubbataha Reef is within a core national park and marine sanctuary that lies in the middle of the Sulu Sea, 150 km away from Puerto Princesa City. It takes a 12-hour boat ride to get there.

The reef harbors a diversity of marine life greater than any other atoll area in the world.

No wonder it is a desirable diving location. Its inaccessibility makes the maintenance extremely difficult.

However, inaccessibility could also be an asset to Tubbataha since its remote location protects the site by limiting the pressure on the environment caused by more divers than the carrying capacity of Tubbataha can handle.

Pride of Place

Augusto F. Villalón

Cycle preserved

Tubbataha's existence has been sustained.

Although fishermen exploited the reefs, the numerous protected fishing for nine months, allowing marine life and the reef time to regenerate. Despite human destruction, the epic of nature preserved Tubbataha.

Although legislation preserving Tubbataha was in place as early as the 1990s, destructive fishing and other destructive fishing methods severely damaged the cover of living coral to the point that in 1989 a study showed that the coral in the outer reefs had decreased by 23 percent.

Fishermen from southern and central Philippines once fished with absolutely no regard of the severe impact of their methods to the marine life, but now, thanks to the tenacious and determined vigilance of Tubbataha authorities, they must follow strict controls.

It was once severely threatened by the establishment of a large manned farm in one of the islets in its vicinity, cutting advantage of the sheltered reefs of its atoll system. The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources and Tubbataha Foundation successfully fought to eliminate the threats.

Good reef areas are vital to sustaining the economic, marine and ecological balance of the Philippines.

Most fish and invertebrate larvae that originate in Tubbataha Reef are believed to migrate with the prevailing currents in the eastern side of Palawan and in the entire Sulu Sea. They eventually provide the fish catch that sustains the life of the people.

Complex links

Since the Philippine nation benefits from the preservation of its environment, it is therefore crucial to maintain Tubbataha Reef in as close to its pristine state as possible.

Today the reef is professionally managed, fishing is finally controlled, and tourism is controlled as well.

The global ecological system is linked in a very complex manner and Tubbataha is one of those links that contribute to the ecological health of the world.

Considering that 75 percent or more of the coral reefs in the Philippines are in varying stages of decline, Tubbataha stands out as one of the best managed and conserved marine sanctuaries in the country, an example worth emulating.

E-mail the author at pridepince@gmail.com

AN ENCAUSTICILLY rich diversity of corals and marine life set Tubbataha apart from other coral reefs as a World Heritage site.

INCOMPARABLE Tubbataha sunset

100 Kwentong PeyUps

Marian exhibit ongoing

THE MARIAN EXHIBIT "LA VIDA DE LA Virgen" is running at the Sanctuario Rosario Parish Church hallway on the University of Santo Tomas campus at Espana, Manila, until Oct 5.

The exhibit, curated by ecclesiastical designer Boi Nicolas, is a project of Fr. James Alamillo, OP parish priest, and Fr. Lucio Gutierrez, OP assistant parish priest.

Nicolas presents an array of images, paintings, prints and reliefs not only on the theme of Mary's infancy but also her life story.

Notable in this exhibit are reliefs by Paete master-carver Lutz Ao-Ao. These reliefs were commissioned by the designer and the author to provide a continuous visual presentation on the life of the Blessed Virgin.

Many reliquaries, artists and Marian devotees have loaned their images in the exhibit. Among them are the ivory images of the Sagrada Familia and "Flight to Egypt" of Dr. Victoria Escobar; "Santa Ana con Niña Maria" by fabric sculptor Steve de Leon; "San Joaquin con Niña Maria" of Noel Alquiliza; the antique painting on wood of "The Death of St. Joseph" owned by interior designer Manny Cardoso and other beautiful pieces from the collections of Dennis Simeon, John Enriquez, Tom Jones, Antonio de Asua and Nesia Bernales.

The project coordinator for the exhibit is James Patrick Dofeg.

FR. JAMES Alamillo, OP, parish priest and project chair

RELIEFS of the Dormition and the Coronation, by Paete artist Luis Ao-Ao

IVORY Niña de la Portiuna from Tom Jones

Sansò DVD documentary to be launched at SMEX

THE DVD DOCUMENTARY, "Sansò... By the Book," about the life and works of expressionist master Jose-ruel Sansò, will be launched Sept. 25, 6 p.m., at the SMEX convention center (next the SM Mall of Asia, Cultural Center of the Philippines-reclaimed area, Pasay City.

Produced by the SM Foundation, "By the Book" follows the travels and byways of the 70-year-old Circulenian artist whose family runs via the Philippines in the 1930s and barely survived World War II.

Renewing interpose of the artist and those who have known him, the documentary records the adventures and misadventures of an artist who, as a young man in the Philippines, secured grand prizes in national art contests with dark expressionist works, and would later continue his art education in Europe, where he learned the chiffons are of the Classic.

In Europe and the United States, too, Sansò came to his own with his highly pastoral landscapes. He would later be named Printmaker of the Year by the Cleveland Museum of Art, in the same league as Marino and Dali.

He would also hone his skill in Bali, where he worked in his studio, while coming back to his homeland to join his family in the Philippines every winter.

A constant presence in Philippine and international art, Sansò has carried a friendship with small to medium-sized by even before the war. The friendship was capped recently when the SMEX convention center opened its doors to the public by unveiling the mural "Tale of Fortune" on its lobby Sansò did the mural.

By producing "Sansò... By the Book," SM Foundation deepens its commitment to art causes, particularly the education of the country's future artists and designers, whom Sansò would like to influence through the documentary of his life and work.

"Sansò . . . By the Book" is directed by Freddie Santos, with music composed and performed by Nicole Guzman.

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I-Excel

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Living Life Fearlessly with LAKAS LOOB

How do these extraordinary women live life to the fullest?

Kim Bernardo
Actress/Fashion Maven

She personifies the beauty and brains cliché, but she has more than good genes to thank for it. "I've always had healthy eating habits, including drinking Anlene milk regularly. This has helped me stay fit and strong to be able to stay on top of my showbiz and corporate careers."

Pinky Marquez
Theater Performer/
Singer/Teacher

Balancing a singing career with the demands of theater roles requires fitness to be timeless. And yet she can still take on an additional role - that of being a teacher of theater arts to kids. "I realized that I am able to cope with the rigorous schedules of acting, singing and theater-performing because I drink Anlene milk consistently to strengthen my bones."

Pilita Corrales
Asia's Queen of Song

Her style of singing is her ultimate fitness regimen, coupled with a regular habit of drinking Anlene milk. "More than ever, I am busier these days! If I don't have strong bones, I would not be able to continue singing and performing those back-breaking bends that is distinctly Pilita."

Maxine Jones
Beauty Queen/Career Survivor

Miss Republic of the Philippines Gall Bridlewood Career Survivor: "I go to the driving range once a week and play golf once every 2 weeks. I try to exercise regularly, drink Anlene milk and limit my food intake."

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Joey Velasco's 'Manunubos' canvases so real, they bleed

By Doctor R. Mallo
Contributor

THERE IS AN ONGOING JOKE between Joey Velasco and his colleagues that his works have become so realistic...if the canvas were to be torn by a blade, it would bleed.

Velasco examines the joke a compliment. He admits he has a bleeding heart for the downtrodden. Social injustice inspires him to produce pieces that inspire hope and uplift the spirit.

At 58, he never under the knife to have a large mass from his kidney removed. Despite the operation's success, the artist still became depressed, which he says "can be likened to being trapped in a dark, lonely, deep well."

"I totally withdrew from the world, from my work and social life," he relates. "I avoided any contact with my friends and even my family, locking myself in my room as a total recluse. I knew what loneliness meant. I prayed for God to throw me a rope and I claimed I was ready to grab one, even if laced with broken glass just for me to see the light once again."

His answer of light came in the form of a painful cut. He immediately utilized his newfound weapon against the darkness by painting "Hiding" in 2005, which depicts Jesus Christ breaking bread with 12 poor children from the slums of Manila, much like the Last Supper.

This he did by going around the fifteen 20 communities, under bridges, depressed areas in Payatas—until he found his 12 little "apostles." It was in the act of painting to remind his four children to count their blessings, especially when they eat.

New exhibit

The "socio-spiritual realist" artist continues to explore the light and shadow techniques in his works. Chiaroscuro has now become a signature of his.

"I view my views as 'real,' not because of the technique but because of the reality happening in our society," he says.

"There is a subtle play of the darkest dark and the brightest bright. I guide myself with questions like 'Where is the light coming from?' Is it a warm light or a cool light?' It is in identifying the light source that the figures are illuminated and the artist achieves realism."

This is how Velasco describes "Pulotan (Hunger)," one of 13 new works to be unveiled today at the Ayala Mall Louver Level, Glorietta 3, Makati City.

"Manunubos" is the name of the exhibit and the works—as well as the stories behind them—should once again draw admiration from both art patrons and just about anybody whose heart finds respite in the love of the Almighty.

For "Manila, Ang Bansot na Puso ni Hesus," Velasco used a female catcher in one of the grill centers in Manila as model for Mary.

"The congregation that commissioned the painting does not hesitate of her Filipino features and tanned skin," Velasco reveals. "She carries the heavy log of the globe and yoke long miles every day through all the 18 holes Ruta or shine the hat to stand by her player, a driver in the fairway.

She symbolizes Mary's obedience. Mary is be done to me according to your word.' It is also Mary's invitation for me to thread not only the monumental pain of Nazareth as the unfolding fulfillment, but also the joyary of constant 'yeses' as I submit to the Father's will."

Receiving the Host

An experience during Sunday Mass was the inspiration for "Hilo." Velasco saw some young men receiving the Host, one stood up, some different poses and fell to line to receive the Eucharist. More than the usual homage, Velasco closed his eyes and at that moment wanted to enter their world.

"While the distinct line across their palms, they receive the Host," Velasco says. "They have small hands and short fingers but their touch can move the immovable and draw the coldest of hearts. I noticed they had different shades of almond eyes that could cross and had clogged tear ducts. These beautiful eyes only seek the goodness in people. They are not cynical or judgmental. When they love, it is unconditional. When I entered their little world, I was definitely in continuation, because I saw Jesus dwelling within."

After finishing "Hagag," Velasco was once again hospitalized for six months. For this time, he had the experience with the children and the memory of the unique journey in an to strengthen him. He moved of unleashing to depression, he wrote a book with an IV inserted into his veins. From there, he went on to produce three film documentaries.

"Painting, writing, filmmaking, things I never did or planned to do in my life," Velasco says. "Everything happened in the past years or so ... when I was at my weakest point."

Velasco admits he still asks himself what inspires him, what gives him direction despite doubts, and what gives him strength. Like a mantra, he asks these questions before the brush of dawn, as he prepares for another day of work in his studio.

E-mail the author at dmallo@yahoo.com

"HILO"

"MANUNUBOS" detail

"JESUS de Supremo"

"PALETA de Sangre"

Visual Arts

Espinosa at NCCA

Damon artist Hocker Espinosa's "Kaybian (Origins)," is running at Gallery Kathara Gallery at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA Bldg., Intramuros, Manila). The exhibit showcases the themes on indigenous peoples, preservation of heritage, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Exhibit ends Oct. 11. The Diamonte artist was one of 600 painters, sculptors and writers who trooped to Belmont, New York, to share their mankind experiences in a variety of expressions articulating the universality of their distinct art-making. Espinosa's international art accolades began in 2003 when he became a finalist in international Bombolieri Art Show in Canada, followed by his participation in the International Art and Photo Contests in 2006 and 2004.

Soler Santos at Finale

In "Dimaku," on view until Oct. 7 at Finale Art Gallery, 4/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Soler Santos offers a taste of almost drought and despair in his every canvas, the sky a threatening commotion of colors while beneath it is a rectangle of gnarled, exhausted branches that evoke inevitable cycles and the hostile emptying of seasons. Lessons in nature's terrifying and swift fluidities, the works are poles from any subtext and irony, thus mythologized in their round and mannered, stirring in the viewer a combination of dread and subtle near wonder. "Dimaku" is curated by Roberto Chabet. Visit www.finalearttile.com.

Cordero at Wee

"OUTCH! Boys Exit" and "Vera Melanie [The Fruit of Eternal Wisdom]"

Louie Cordero presents "Pilgrimage to Ibarama Mountains," until Sept. 30 at Wee! Gallery, 4L, Bldg. 6, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The show displays Cordero's fascination with religious cults and mystical phenomena. Call 634-1384.

Posadas at Prose

"BUTTERFLY" It's Time to Go"

The Prose Art Gallery (3/F, Lennox Realty, 100 Jerusalem Ave. and Paseo de Roxas, Makati City) presents "Buddleiaphiles," an exhibit of watercolor paintings depicting "lepidopterans" or butterfly, by Jill Arvin Posadas. The exhibit presents the results of the fusion of various butterfly and exotic species with humanoid forms. The exhibit runs until Oct. 1. Call 8917-8622201.

Amorsolo Illustrations at Lopez

Selected illustrations by Fernando Amorsolo from 1928 to 1934 are featured in "Telltale: The Artist as Storyteller, Amorsolo as Illustrator," Lopez Museum's unique contribution to the Amorsolo retrospective project of several museums and galleries. It aims to take another look at the country's first National Artist through a four-month multimedia exhibit of his finest works. The exhibit runs until April 4, 2009. Lopez Museum is at Benpres Bldg., Meralco Ave. and Exchange Road, Pasig. Call 631-1441 / 631-1442.

Two women-artists' 'Sweet Reflections'

CLOCKWISE from left: "PANDACAL," and "Bachelorette," by Iona Nisanga-Vitasa, "Bumpo-shaped Flowers," by Myra Caymar

MYRA CAYMAR AND IRMA Nisanga-Vitasa will hold a joint exhibit, "Sweet Reflections," Sept. 27-Oct. 4 at Asia Art Gallery, Unit 21-15, Entertainment Mall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Tel. 863-3042).

The exhibit features works in oil and watercolor.

Caymar and Vitasa are members of the Saturday Group of artists.

"As you can see, some of my paintings have no background. 'Mellow' has just nine flowers and no leaves. I wanted to keep it simple and just play with the composition," says Vitasa, "just as I want to simplify my life to be able to focus on what is more important."

She makes prominent the translucent quality of watercolor in varied paintings of flowers by using fresh colors. Vitasa depicts her subjects in interesting ways such as in scroll format like that of Chinese paintings.

Caymar does still lifes.

"My goal is to direct the viewers where to look," she says.

She also loves experimenting with color, using it to express the tone of her works.

Metal man

From page D1

"PAK"

"ETUDE"

"NOCTURNE"

he says with a smile, "but it's all worth it."

Early promise

Coming from a family of doctors, De la Cruz showed his inclination for art early. As a boy, he turned ordinary clay into creatures from his mind. By his second year in college, he was interviewed by Cory Quirino for a story about his talent, which appeared in Panorama.

The features got him job offers, which eventually led to his long-time friend and boss—designing and manufacturing small home and Christmas decors for export. It's a career that earned him the distinction of being the first Filipino designer of home and Christmas accents to be sold in a brand in the States.

"So you could buy a little snowman or Santa with a tag that says, 'Handcrafted in Cruz,'" he says.

His designs have also reached Europe, such as on the gloves of the famous tableware and fine crystal manufacturer Villeroy & Boch.

Sculpting, though, remained an unshakable passion, so when De la Cruz was 30, he approached National Artist Arturo Luz with a sample of his metal pieces and asked him what he thought. While normally severe with his comments, Luz, says De la Cruz, was unexpectedly encouraging.

"He said, 'A lot of people approach me for this kind of advice and I usually tell them to come back in 15 years.'"

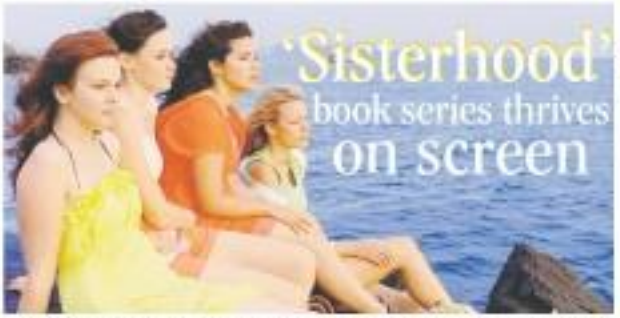
But only was the fledgling artist pushed to go ahead and sculpt, he was also told "to use the kind of material that would make the sculpture as permanent as possible." Looking back, De la Cruz realizes that while his success as a sculptor may appear to come too fast and soon, this must have paid his dues.

"You know what? The 15 years that Mr. Luz was talking about were golden. My all-my years of training and working in the export business."

Which explains why, after only two years in the local art scene, De la Cruz, the husband of an interior designer and father of boys ages 13 and 7 and a 10-year-old girl, has already set his sight on a bigger arena. "To go international, so-to-speak. Philippine art" in his next goal...one which, like his three exhibits, appears to be in the bag at this stage.

De la Cruz has already been approached by representatives of a gallery for a possible show...in Hong Kong.

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books



'Sisterhood' book series thrives on screen

BASED ON ANN BRASHARES' best-selling series of novels about four young women who share an unbreakable bond through the unpredictable events of their lives, the new endearing drama from Warner Bros. "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" is the eagerly anticipated sequel to the 2005 original.

Three years have passed since audiences last saw Tibby (Amber Tamblyn), Carmen (Alexis Bledel), Bridget (Blake Lively) and Lena (Alexis Bledel). They were 16 then, best friends, and just beginning to realize the possibilities that lay beyond the Bethesda neighborhood where they all grew up.

That summer marked their first total separation, and to help them keep in touch, they rolled upon a unique item: a pair of vintage jeans, found in a thrift shop, that miraculously fit each of them perfectly and -- even -- seemed to bring them luck.

They made a pact to mail the pants to one another throughout the summer months, with notes enclosed from each wearer to the next about everything that had happened during the time the pants were in her possession.

But things are different now. The sisters they have never-ever-wish-and-die pace of life is faster.

The sequel, drew upon volumes 2, 3 and four of Brashares' second-selling book series, with an emphasis on the fourth, "Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood."

Screenwriter Elizabeth Chandler explained: "It was decided that the new film would jump three years forward, after the girls had spent a year living everywhere from different colleges. We allowed us to explore more summer transitional time the girls deal with their problems while the bonds of their friendship are beginning to unravel. However, in trying to craft the most compelling storylines for each character, I as separated certain dramatic elements from all three books that were particularly meaningful, and therefore relevant. We would an within the time span of the movie."

Developing the script was a collaborative process. Said director Sanaa Hamri: "Our goal was to satisfy the fans of the original movie and the books and, at the same time, create a self-contained saga, for an audience that may not have seen the first film or know the books. That really is the job of a sequel. I knew we had a tough act to follow. But I also knew that those characters had been so well-developed and presented with such honesty that it was clear to see they had a future."

Brashares said the movie version would up-point to how real the book action. "I think this movie, along with the first film, really carries the spirit of the books very strongly. I think the relationship between the girls...the way they care for each other and trust each other—is really there. They take each other seriously. I feel like that's something very important to me in the books and it's very much carried through to the movie."

"[Brashares writes] things that work in a book don't translate well in a movie," Hamri said. "It's finding that balance between staying close to the book and making sure the second movie feels like a progression of the first one."

"The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2" opens in theaters tomorrow (Sept 17).

THE "SISTERS" are closer to one another, more mature.

BACK for Part 2 Amber Tamblyn, Alexis Bledel, Amber Ea Farmer and Blake Lively

Zunic Success Story:

From size XL to medium

Featuring
Roy A. Cagsaw

Parenting is its own Reward

Lilia Arlas Espinosa

Who's on first? Giving kids their fair share of attention

It is normal for siblings to compete for their parents' attention and time. Unfortunately, children may use inappropriate behaviors like whining, tattling, fighting and arguing to belittle or "one-up" their brother or sister. When it comes to a parent's attention and time, kids want to know, "Who's on first?"

Many parents have shared with me, in our Common Sense Parenting classes, their feelings of concern about sibling rivalry. Parents worry when the new baby has arrived that the older sibling feels left out even though Mom and Dad try to make him or her feel included. Other parents with school-age children say they get frustrated by their children's constant bickering and tattling and the way they are willing to freely give-think love. Most parents admit there is a limit of the time and attention they can give children each day and this is when things get complicated.

The easy ask:

How much time should I give to each child? Every child is different, some kids will just want a little of your time while others want to be around you every moment. Spending more time isn't necessarily better. It's what you do with the time that counts. You could spend 5 minutes, one minute with a child doing something he likes and it would mean more than an hour with him doing something in a group. In this case, quality and quantity can mark together. Having short but exclusive time with your kids may make him feel like he is special to you.

What should parents do when they have a child who is an attention hog? Children who crave attention are telling us two things: 1) They like being around us and 2) they are willing to do anything to get the time and attention they want. As parents we want to make sure that we only give attention for good behavior. When our little attention hog is doing something annoying, completely ignoring him could stop the problem. However, if your child is doing something harmful or repeatedly breaking a rule calmly, immediately and audibly correct him with little fanfare as possible.

How can parents avoid feeling overwhelmed when they have more than one child? You can try to make short 3-minute dates with each child every other hour during the times children have the most difficulty getting along. Do simple things like 'Buy-something' dates for younger children, profiling child in the racing, help take the leaves, rock in a chair. For older kids a mini-date might be a soda after school, five minutes computer games or bedside chat. Be sure to make the date for only one child at a time. Use a timer to keep track of the date, when it should start and finish. Remind your child another special date will be coming up. Also remind him they love him/her when they hit/kick or interrupt another child's date.

Of course, I am not able to answer every question you have on giving children your attention and spending time with them but, here are five quick tips to lessen problem behaviors between siblings so you will soon be spend more time with your children.

Daily Routines: Simple and consistent routines give children a sense of stability, safety and identity especially when combined with clear, consistent and predictable limits.

(NEXT >>)

The 10 basic principles of good parenting

ARE YOU CONFIDENTLY SEARCHING THE LATEST on parenting to make sure you are doing everything exactly right? It's time to relax. Temple University psychologist Laurence Steinberg says that perfect parents just don't exist.

"Most parents are pretty good parents," says Steinberg. "But I've never met a parent who is perfect 100 percent of the time. We all can improve our hunting average."

Sports analogies are careful in Steinberg, the concept of the book came from his own desire to improve his golf game. "I was reading, probably for the 10th time, Harvey Penick's 'Little Red Golf Book'," he says. "It is built around a series of very short essays that cover very basic principles.

"So I was reading it, I was thinking that this might be a good way to teach people how to be better parents." Steinberg, the distinguished university professor and the Laura Carnell Professor of Psychology at Temple, wrote the newly released "The Ten Basic Principles of Good Parenting" (Simon & Schuster). This easy to follow how-to book uses the formula that works for golf to improve parenting. He believes it is the perfect format for today's busy parents.

Here is a quick overview of the Ten Basic Principles:

1. What you do matters. "Tell yourself that every day how you treat and respond to your child should come from a knowledgeable, deliberate sense of what you want to accomplish. Always ask yourself: What effect will my decision have on my child?"

2. You cannot be too loving. "When it comes to greater expressions of warmth and affection, you cannot love your child too much. It is simply not possible to spoil a child with love. What we often think of as the product of spoiling a child is never the result of showing a child too much love. It is usually the consequence of giving a child things in place of love-things like leniency, lowered expectations or unearned praise."

3. Be involved in your child's life. "Being an involved parent takes time and is hard work, and it

(MORE >>)

What their faces are saying

Of course our cute, lovable kids always want our their lives in a world of nonsensical sounds coming from adults. So, when words get in the way and verbal expressions get too complicated, their faces will say it all. Check out what these cuties are really trying to express, before words actually start forming in their lips.

"DO YOU think I have more pouty lips than Angelina Jolie?"

"I KNOW the winning lotto numbers come true!"

"I'M-C-AE It's fun to stay at the I'M-C-AE"

"GOOD morning! And if we don't see each other later, good afternoon and good evening to me!"

"I DON'T think I need to hide these beautiful eyes behind sunglasses. Wait, where are my sunglasses?"

I DON'T care if I still don't have my tooth, I will smile at the camera. Mine shows"

"AH THAT one, I'll be smiling too. I have 2 more than you do, woohoo!"

"MOM! I'm dressed to the nines. But where's my bling?

Coping with a picky eater

Do you often find yourself suffering from "short-order cook syndrome," preparing two or three different menus at mealtime to appease the desires of a finicky eater? Mealtime should be a pleasant family time and a positive learning environment for all family members. If you find that mealtimes usually end in arguments about how much your child should be eating and how much he or she is not eating, follow these guidelines. They'll help you cope with your picky eater and make family mealtime more enjoyable.

• The first step is to eliminate possible health problems. Make an appointment with your family pediatrician and share your concerns about your child's appetite and eating habits. Ask the doctor to weigh and measure your child and have him or her share you know to plot out a standard growth chart. Assess your child's growth and development over time, taking into consideration genetics and family body types. If your physician has no concerns, you can move on to mealtime strategies without worry.

• Establish rules for a sit-down, family-style meal where everyone eats together to start. Turn the television off. Focus on conversation that includes all family members, limiting adult-only conversation. Also, don't use mealtime as nag or punish your child for behaviors that aren't related to mealtime.

• Establish a set of mealtime rules for your child. No eating, he or she must stay seated, must eat at the table, must eat his or her silverware, cannot throw food, etc.

• Praise your child for any appropriate behaviors that occur during a meal, especially when he or she samples new food items or eases the child doesn't prefer or like. Praise! Praise! Praise!

• Don't discuss eating habits or problems at or near mealtime; such discussions or teaching should take place at other times. Do not bribe, threaten, or chide your child over his or her eating habits at the dinner table. You may discuss mealtime rules, but this should be done sometime before the meal begins. Don't let discussions become lectures about the importance or value of a good diet. Always keep any talk about food under 5-10 minutes.

• Limit your child's eating time to 20 minutes. If your child is going to eat, he or she will do so in the first 20 minutes of the meal. If your child finishes before that time, give praise and let him or her leave the table. (This decision depends on your mealtime rules.)

Give your finicky eater small but reasonable portions of preferred foods along with very small amounts of non-preferred foods. Tell your child that he or she must eat the non-preferred foods in order to have seconds of the preferred foods. Over time, gradually increase the quantity of non-preferred foods you want your child to eat or at least try. Do not force your child to be a member of the "clean plate" club, and do not force him or her to eat the non-preferred foods.

• Plan your menus in advance. Include your picky eater by letting him or her help plan the family menus, encouraging them to try something new. Children's cookbooks are available to help with meal planning. Once you have created a menu, stick to your plan. Remember, you are not a short-order cook.

• Desserts or snacks should be given only if your child finishes the previous meal.

• Make mealtime a family affair. All family members should follow the same eating and snacking rules you set for your finicky eater.

• Be careful not to limit the amount of beverages your child drinks between meals (do not limit water intake). Children should not drink juice, milk, or other flavored liquids close to mealtime.

• Make mealtime fun by providing an occasional smorgasbord of favorite foods. The more fun mealtime is, the more invested your finicky eater will be in participating and trying new foods.

• Food Tags. Provide numerous opportunities for your child to learn to manage inconveniences (like trying new foods!). This can be accomplished by having him or her do new chores, decreasing TV or computer time, and increasing expectations for good behavior.

Final Reminders. Not to worry (Serena of a finicky eater often worry about starvation or a lack of growth and development. Will my child grow up to be big and strong? Will my child get sick? Will my child's picky eating develop a taste for other foods? Starvation should not be a concern just because your child hasn't eaten a vegetable or fruit in the past six weeks. If your child receives good medical attention and is in good health, there's none likely nothing to worry about. Your child's ultimate height and body weight is more a function of the genes that you have donated to him or her than what you feed him or her. The next time you are in a family gathering, take inventory of the variety of body shapes and sizes.

Assemble a support group and enroll grandparents, daycare providers, your pediatrician, spouse, etc in your plan.

Some of us love to eat and some of us just don't. Kids are no different.

Bribery and forcing your child to eat will get you nowhere. If you push, the results will probably be unhappy meals, unhappy relationships, and increased defiance.

Ben Appetit (Aida Alexander, Boys' Town Behavioral Health Services)

Celebrate Halloween in Hong Kong!

WIN A TRIP FOR TWO TO HONG KONG—the ultimate travel destination this season of spooks, as the Hong Kong Tourism Board and Cathay Pacific brings you Hong Kong Halloween Treats.

Halloween at Hong Kong is a 24 day celebration beginning Sept. 26 until Nov. 2, with a hodgepodge of activities to delight your senses. Feast on tasty local delicacies like Wonton Noodles, Egg Tarts, and Pineapple buns; party like crazy in Lan Kwai Fong or SoHo while showing off the most personal Halloween costumes; and indulge in some thrills and chills at the exciting Halloween activities at the city's most loved hotspots like Madame Tussaud's terrain attraction, Hong Kong Disneyland, and Season of Stars. Ocean Park's 6th annual Halloween Bash is out to be scared with its frightful and fun Halloween entertainment that lurks around the park's every corner.

To win a trip to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, simply tune in to Metrolife 103.5 from Sept. 22 to Oct. 10, 6 to 8 p.m. and watch out for the DJs cue. Then, call and answer the trivia question, of which answers can be seen in the Hong Kong Halloween Treats ad found at the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Commuters who give the right answers would get a chance to win a Hong Kong with a friend!

But we've yet to give a few things away. Tell the DJ where you spotted a Hong Kong Halloween outing truck and bring home exclusive premium items from Hong Kong. So keep your eyes open and watch out for every opportunity to celebrate with a bang!

True enough, there's no better place to get a good scream and the right dose of fun.

Hong Kong. Live it. Love it!

The 10 basic principles of good parenting

From page E3

...ciples means rethinking and rearranging your priorities. It frequently means sacrificing what you want to do for what your child needs you to do. Be there mentally as well as physically.

4. Adapt your parenting to fit your child. Make sure your parenting keeps pace with your child's development. You may wish you could slow down or freeze-frame your child's life, but this is the last thing he wants. You may be fighting getting older, but all he wants is to grow up. The same drive for independence that is making you 'loose only' may not tell the time is what's motivating him to be toilet trained. The same intellectual growth spurt that is making your 15-year-old curious and inquisitive in the classroom also is making her argumentative at the dinner table.

5. Establish and set rules. "If you don't manage your child's behavior when he is young, he will have a hard time learning how to manage himself when he is older and you aren't around. Any time of the day or night, you should always be able to answer three basic questions: Where is my child? Who is with my child? What is he/she doing? The rules your child has learned from you are going to shape the rules he applies to himself."

6. Foster your child's independence. "Setting limits helps your child develop a sense of self-control. Encouraging independence helps her develop a sense of self-direction. To be successful in life, she's going to need both. Accepting that it is normal for children to push for autonomy is absolutely key to effective parenting. Many parents mistakenly equate their child's independence with rebelliousness or disobedience. Children push for independence because it is part of human nature to want to find it control rather than to feel controlled by someone else."

7. Be consistent. "If your rules vary from day to day in an unpredictable fashion, or if you enforce them only intermittently, your child's attitudes/behavior is your fault, not his. Your most important discipline tool is consistency. Identify your non-negotiables. The more your authority is based on wisdom and not on power, the less your child will challenge it."

8. Avoid harsh discipline. "Of all the forms of punishment that parents use, the one with the worst side effects is physical punishment. Children who are spanked, hit or slapped are more prone to fighting with other children. They are more likely to be bullies and more likely to use aggression to solve disputes with others."

9. Explain your rules and decisions. "Good parents have expectations they want their child to live up to. Generally, parents overexplain to young children and underexplain to adolescents. What is obvious to you may not be evident to a 12-year-old. He doesn't have the prefrontal, judgment or experience that you have."

10. Treat your child with respect. "The best way to get respectful behavior is to give child is to treat him respectfully. You should give your child the same courtesies you would give to anyone else. Speak to him politely. Respect his opinion. Be attentive when he is speaking to you. Treat him kindly. Try to please him when you can. Children treat others the way their parents treat them. Your relationship with your child is the foundation for his relationships with others."

There is no guarantee that following these guidelines will result in perfect parents. Remember, there is no such thing!

"Parenting is more an art than something we think of as especially scientific," says Steinberg. "But parenting is one of the most well-researched areas in the entire field of social sciences. It has been studied for 75 years, and the findings have remained remarkably consistent over time."

"The advice in the book is based on what scientists who study parenting have learned from dozens of systematic research involving hundreds of thousands of families. What I've done is to synthesize and communicate what the experts have learned in a language that non-experts can understand."

Good parenting, says Steinberg, a "parenting that fosters psychological adjustment—competence like honesty, empathy, self-reliance, kindness, cooperation, self-control and other qualities.

"Good parenting is parenting that helps children succeed in school," he continues. "It promotes the development of intellectual capacity, motivation to learn and desire to achieve. It deters children from and would behavior delinquency, smoking and alcohol use. And good parenting is parenting that helps protect children against the development of anxiety, depression, eating disorders and other types of psychological distress."

"There is no more important job in any society than raising children, and there is no more important influences on how children develop than their parents."

Steinberg's other books include "Yes, and Your Adolescent: A Parent's Guide for Ages 10 to 20" (HarperCollins, 1997), "Crossing Paths: How Your Child's Adolescents Triggers Your Own Crisis" (Simon & Schuster, 1994), and "Beyond the Classroom: Why School Reform Has Failed and What Parents Need to Do" (Simon & Schuster, 1996). (Source: Stevenson/Temple University)

CLINICAL PROOF THAT YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR CHILD'S IQ

Very early in life, your child's brain undergoes tremendous growth and development. Laying the foundation for his future cognitive potential. In fact, in his lifetime, your child's brain power has the as much as 250% prior to his toddler years.

Certain nutrients have a greater effect on brain development than others; nutrients like DHA and ARA.

17mg/100Kcal of DHA & 34mg/100kcal of ARA: CLINICALLY SHOWN TO IMPACT YOUR CHILD'S IQ

Ongoing research has explored the long-term cognitive benefits of supplementation of DHA and ARA at specific levels.

DHA (Docosahexaenoic Acid) and ARA (Arachidonic Acid) are long-chained polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFAs) that are instrumental in brain development. Limitations in the supply of DHA and ARA during this time period may have detrimental effects on the growth and function of your child's brain.

Recently, Dr. Dennis Hoffman, a Ph.D. in Biochemistry as well as fellow, instructor, researcher and author of over 80 publications on health and nutrition, presented at the Science Discovery Center in Manila the results of their clinical trial published in the international scientific journal, Early Human Development, in 2007.

What was striking was that data shows positive cognitive results at 4 year olds supplemented with 17mg/100kcal of DHA and 34mg/100kcal ARA very early on in life.

IQ at 4 years of age

They achieved an approximate plus 7 more IQ points at age 4 compared with children who had received control formula not supplemented with DHA and ARA.

Interestingly enough, not all clinical studies that supplemented with DHA and ARA achieved the same IQ results. For instance, another clinical trial demonstrated that lower DHA/ARA levels had no long-term advantages on the visual, cognitive and language development at 30-month old children.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE FROM THE START

These results are important since childhood IQ at 4 is considered relatively stable and may offer some insight into their future intelligence. It has been reported in some samples that there is a relationship between the 4-year old IQ of about 60% of the children to their 10-year-old IQ.

These results, when combined with research that shows IQ to be predictive of school performance, makes supplementation with DHA and ARA at the right levels very early on in life even more compelling.

Dr. Frank Oski, the former Chairman of Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine says in an article entitled, "What We Eat May Determine What We Can Be".

"I am often asked what difference a few IQ points make. At least, how measure how someone performs in an IQ test. At most, they are a relative measure, among others, of individual potential. As I watch in the morning when I can't sleep until I come up with the right word for an article, I would give almost anything for some additional IQ points. And, if someone offered them to me at one time I wouldn't refuse - it can't hurt — because in my lifetime, society has become increasingly complex."

NOURISH THE BRAIN, PURSUE EXCELLENCE

If feeding your child 17 and 34mg/100kcal of DHA and ARA at a very early age can give higher early childhood IQ at 4 years, who knows what the future might hold for your child when he's fed the right diet.

Ask your doctor
how you can give your child 7 IQ POINTS

Advertorial

Who's on first?

From page E3

things has changed to the home like getting a new brother or sister. Also, having a schedule reduces idle time when kids often get into trouble. Prompt your kids using a timer of when to cleaning up or the television or they can quickly remember.

Divide Responsibilities: Help your children feel like they are part of the family by giving them a household responsibility. The responsibility could be something small for a young child such as dust learning the table or being on towel patrol to the bathroom, while older kids can help you with various household chores. Giving kids responsibilities around the house will free you up to have more time to spend with them. Spending time doing fun things together should be a main motivation for you and your children when it comes to getting chores done.

Use Punishment: A simple and effective negative consequence for a child who does an unkind or disrespectful behavior toward their sibling is to have him do several kind and/or considerate things for their sibling for example. If a child hits their little brother or because he stuck out his tongue at him you could have both children do three considerate, kind up needs or does time with each other) or consequence things (such as pick up toys, fold a load of laundry together) for each other as a way to show they can get along.

Quiet Help: Between you take turns at different times of the day being with their children, showing the other person time to regroup away from the children may help them feel more refreshed and capable. If there isn't a co-parent to rely on in the home make a mental family and friends to give you a break. Also, make a rule for kids not interrupt mom or dad's 30-minute alone time. Reward the kids when they respect the rule. This rule is especially helpful when you first get home after work. Children may start vying for your attention right at the door.

With all of this in mind, remember it is normal for siblings to compete for their parents' attentions and time. However, now you have some strategies to see when your children are inappropriate behaviors to get your attention. (Bridget Brown, Boys Town, Common Sense Parenting Coordinator)

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

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Puccini's bohemians as indie artists

TENOR Gino dell'Rosario

PDC's production of "La Boheme" will have Rodolfo and his "bohemian" pantry for their big break in Manila

By Jerusalen Flo. Guerrero
Contributor

GIACOMO PUCCINI'S MOST beloved opera, "La Boheme," has been given many innovative treatments here and abroad. The late National Artist Rolando Tinio, for instance, once staged it here with Puccini's bohemians (Rodolfo the poet, Mimi the consumptive, etc.) transformed into hardened denizens of Manila's University belt.

The Philippine Opera Company (POC) goes a step further, in keeping with developments in Manila's cultural and entertainment scene. A forthcoming POC production of "La Boheme," to be directed by Hey Quintos, is opera set in Manila, but Rodolfo and his bo'hards are now independent indie film actors ready hoping for a big break.

This was announced in a recent press conference at Hyatt Hotel in Manila. The opera will be presented at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Oct. 3-4 (8 p.m.) and Oct. 5 (3 p.m.). Bobo Quach conducts the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Reading and analyzing the text, Quintos

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JENNIFER Ujano/Lawrence Jacalna

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LEVEL NOTE — BY ELIZABETH D HONGO

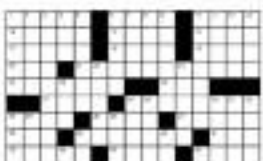
KIKO MACHINE — BY MARK ARIEN

BEN — By Darrell Shelton

DAILY CROSSWORD

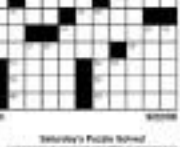
ACROSS
1 HOUR
6 Mimic at
10 Bridle strap
14 "CHOO! CHOO!"
15 Part of a 6-8
16 Refurbishes
17 Virtual certainty
18 Stayed behind
19 Wow-Wee
20 Pilot's garage
adm.
21 Comedy duo
Hudson-Lupino
23 Hardware-store
items
24 Fervently-to-un
25 Deep one
27 DECREASES
29 Embellishes
32 Diamond-shape
33 Counterpane
34 Central Mont.
37 School softies
39 Sings, as a
40 Pinkeye, please
41 Tell Hancock
Regarding
43 Named
44 Cookie cream
46 Statement of
confidence
48 Author of "The
Hand-Reading
Bulletin"
50 Like some
decisions
51 Underground
52 Cut-rate
53 Going to pot
54 Some home
55 Dance-contest
56 Bring to a halt
57 Greek letters
58 Cheat
59 Vitamin
carrier
60 Bottom lines
61 Tire Chuck
62 Inhabitants
63 Mayor to send fire
64 Western tattoo

DOWN
1 1983 Mr. T flick
2 Headmaster's
"For ___"
3 Palmers
application



By Allan E. Parrish
Wenzel, Ed

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



4 Bus. to cater
5 Lip-read silently
6 Oh, gosh!
7 Polish
8 Enter
9 Pressure
10 New England
11 Cartoon cheer
12 Rambo's Mission
13 Crazy ones
21 High-IQ group
22 Former Knight
24 Comment
26 Plural letters (1 in
Spain, both JD
and XXI)
28 Actress Jessica
30 Chinese
supreme
31 No-no, ___ or
maybe
32 Wild weapon
34 Greek cheese
35 Tennis situation
36 Bowl-related
38 Group meeting
40 Actress Georgia
42 Actor give to
Stella Stevens's
cream
43 Start
47 Concerto or
quartet
48 "Rock You
Hard" company
51 Pleasant
52 Tremulous
sound
53 Take boldness

54 Bug
55 B shortcut
57 Fanatic's nation
59 "Moon
Bathing"
passenger
60 Richard
Nessens

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your self-motivation, discipline and common sense is fortunate. Make sure you don't waste time on things that you already do well. Instead, you should focus on those that you don't do well. Learn, learn and learn. You have an excellent sense of humor. Make sure you don't overdo it. Test and refine social and networking skills. Socialize.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		2	4		1	9		
3	8						1	7
			7		8			
6		3				8		1
			9		2			
1		7				4		9
			8		4			
9	4						8	6
		1	2		5	3		

Difficulty Level ★

9/21

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

2	7	1	9	6	4	5	8	3
8	4	6	3	5	1	7	9	2
3	5	9	2	7	8	4	1	6
5	9	3	8	1	7	2	4	1
4	6	7	1	2	5	8	3	9
1	2	8	4	3	9	6	5	7
9	1	5	7	4	6	3	2	8
7	3	4	6	9	2	1	6	5
6	8	2	5	1	3	9	7	4

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JOWIN DeLeon/ AMA Films

Puccini's bohemians as indie artists

Arts page F3

said he wanted to come up with common everyday faces.

"We wanted a contemporary setting without taking away specific scenes and Puccini's love for people, and not pieces," the director said. "So we set it in Manila, specifically the indie art scene in Manila."

He added: "It was nice to put [Puccini] characters against Manila's unmistakable landscapes. Indie landscapes, not main-stream."

But "the Philippine indie industry is a concave story, one misfit person pointed out. Indie directors and actors are being noticed, and praised here and abroad.

"For every successful indie artist," Quintos mentioned, "there are still a lot out there waiting for the right project. And we are also talking about people in theater, producers."

Tenors Gary del Rosario, Jaun Alberto Gaerlan and Dondi Dog alternate in the role of Rodolfo. Soprano Jennifer Ty and Blanche Odiganel (a newcomer from Santa Isabel College) play the tragic Mimi, with soprano Ana Feleo and Elaine Lee as Musetta.

Baritone Nestor Sea is Alcindoro, Musetta's admirer, while baritone Jack Iskhal as undertaker.

PDC artistic director Karla Castanera said "quite a big number came for the auditions, despite the heat and robust drain, and we were pleasantly surprised."

She raved about Miguel (Mimi): "My, what an amazing set we have found here over-seas. She can go international with a voice like that."

'Halo-halo' dance . . .

Arts page F4

Francis Concio briefly struggled through the knee-scraping "Rumpleh" (another work by Francisco).

Dance couples Mylene Aguilino and Geometry, Jennifer Obayon and Jayson Lopez, and Charlene Villegas and Ramon Pereña alternated in "Rainbirds," a sexy and sleek interpretation of spiders' mating act, by noted choreographer Agnes Locsin.

Bic Cabiles's "Avala," performed on wine dance, looked its usual lumen even as Rosalia's flip-spiraling and forceful splits elicited oooos from the audience. He was the lone survivor of its original (and soon-to-be-retired) cast.

Imaginative sets by Jimelo and elaborate light design by Jonas Villanueva completed the iconic production.

Ballet Manila's 15th season continues with "The Naughty Daughter" on Oct. 3-11; "Tadong Gomez ni Lola Basyang" (world premiere), Dec. 5-14, and "SK Tchaikovsky Challenge," from Feb. 11-22.

BM will also be presenting "Hidden Jewels" on Sept. 25, 7 p.m., at the Star Theater, in cooperation with the Philippine Foundation Inc., where select students from their adopted schools will join the pro fessionals to help raise funds for the organization.

SENIOR soloist Mylene Aguilino and favorite Espejo-4 Agnes Locsin's "Avalanche"

HELEN Quach

JAMA Alberto Gaerlan, Diana Larrucea and Jovelen Logdat

Peta brings back 'Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang' and 'Batang Rizal'

FOR ITS 4:ST THEATER SEASON, PETA is bringing back Dominior Bolleta's "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" (directed by Phil Noble) and "Batang Rizal" (directed by Dulli Nicolas) Sept. 19-Oct. 19 at the Onic Theater Center.

"Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" features three of Severino Reyes' Folk tales ("Prinsipeng Sibasiba ang Ibong," "Ang Pitong Gang Tatsulo si Hari," "Ang Prinsipeng Tatsulo si Hari," "Ang Prinsipeng Ibong") which tackle mythical journeys into self-discovery and value formation.

"Batang Rizal" revisits the cartoons of heroism and love of country from the point of view of children—one of which is Pepe, the young, Jose Rizal.

Show dates for "Lola Basyang" are as follows: Sept. 19-21 and 27-28 (10 a.m.); 20 (10 a.m. and 3 p.m.); Oct. 3, 4, 5, 11, 12 (3 p.m.); Oct. 17 (12 noon and 3:30 p.m.); Oct. 18 (3 p.m.) and 19 (10 a.m.).

Show dates for "Batang Rizal": Sept. 19-20, 27-28 (3 p.m.), Oct. 3-5, 11-12, 18 (10 a.m.), Oct. 17 (9 a.m.), Oct. 19 (3 p.m.)

Tickets at P300 each. Shows are also available for block buyers (more than 50 tickets and above) and show buyers. For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Otis Marketing and Public Relations at 4100021, 7226244 or 0917-7033457. E-mail petaseason@yahoo.com or visit petatheater.com.

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GE imagination at work

Today is "Kainang Pamilya Mahalaga Day"

ON September 22 and 23 of this year, the nation will observe the National Family Week, an event which aims to increase awareness on various family issues and enhance the effectiveness of local, regional and national efforts to carry out specific programs concerning families by generating new activities and strengthening existing ones.

In relation to this event, the National Committee on Filipino Family (NCFF) and the Manila Water Corp. (MWC), through a Memorandum of Agreement mutually agree to bind themselves for the implementation of the MWC's advocacy project called "Kainang Pamilya Mahalaga Day".

"Kainang Pamilya Mahalaga Day," which will be celebrated every fourth Monday of September, recognizes the importance of family togetherness in partaking dinner. This campaign aims to encourage parents to frequently eat dinner with their children and be involved in their children's lives as simple and effective ways to raise happy, healthy and successful children.

As a suggested activity, the local government units (LGUs) are also encouraged to allow their local officials and functionaries to leave their respective offices early on September 22, the fourth Monday of September to join their families for dinner in the observance of the "Kainang Pamilya Mahalaga Day".

'Halo-halo' dance extravaganza

Ballet Manila might be deeply entrenched in its classical Vaganova roots, but it has no difficulty trying out more inventive forms of dances

By Ella Kristin R. Requinia
Contributor

BALLET MANILA'S "HALO-HALO Supreme" at the Theater was a two-hour happy pill that left its audience feeling euphoric, even hours after the show.

This "Feast of Filipino ballets," with its addicting fusion of ballroom, native and contemporary dance with classical ballet, was initially held in 2008 to celebrate artistic director Lisa Macuja-Elizalde's 20th anniversary as a Philippine-based ballerina. Now it has become an annual staple in the company's seasons, usually serving as an avenue for artists and select guest choreographers to tap into their unconventional types of dances.

In this third installment of the edutainment showcase, the message was clear: BM might be deeply entrenched in its classical Vaganova roots, but it has no difficulty trying out more inventive forms of dances.

Pop dance

It was especially expressed in Tony Fabella's aptly titled "Bilugo," which, at first, was reminiscent of "Dancing on Ice" only, the seasoned choreographer's "Halo-halo" offering has pizzaz.

What started off as a classical number in Paul Hindemith's music—11 of BM's male dancers in white livery and white tights gliding across the stage with Macuja in white tutu and gold accents—was abruptly cut off by denim-clad company members through Kamikazee's award-winner of Apo Hiking Society's "Dito Ibibo."

Sticking to the pop-dance milieu and filling the theater's cramped stage (in synch with Fabella's signature "out of bounds") was BM School's promising elementary-level scholars from select public schools.

Watching Macuja—who later joined them wearing a denim jacket and jeans herself—dance mechanical steps unexpectedly turned out to make her look as young as the rest of those on stage. She might have looked hurry at some point (this writer had never seen her concentrate so hard on a series of steps), but it still looked like she was enjoying herself. She and the company were rewarded with appreciative applause.

"Dubu," meanwhile, was a one-of-a-kind ballroom-to-ballet by guest choreographer Albert Demerozen that portrayed the local way of celebrating friendship, courtship and marriage. Having had ample training with Mona Bafion, the entire "Dubu" cast (aware in ranked mini-dresses and suits in deep V-necked shirts) looked as though they would not be lost in a "dungaree" competition.

There were dress, though, where too many steps were squeezed into a single bout. Hiking the dancers' synched movements for more complicated ballroom routines, it looked as if they were hurrying after the music.

Affecting deer-caught-in-the-headlights expressions, Sofia Jungco, who has apparently been winning local and international awards for ballroom, led the cast in the dance medley. Wearing sunny red-and-gold ballroom wear, Jungco expertly flicked, whipped and swayed while senior soloist Gerard Francisco confidently twirled her through cha-cha, samba, rhumba, tango, waltz and paso dobli cut to OPM hits.

The pair where Francisco slowly pulled Jungco's leg until she was in an avalanche, bottom-first split on the floor especially wowed the crowd.

Crowd favorite

Gian Ramos, BM's senior associate and ballet master, collaborated with Francisco once again for the crowd favorite, "Pista." A gigantic corps-de-ballet (student-soloists joined the company once again) took over as cute and choppy vendors as Francisco and company member Nacer Salgado vied for Macuja's heart in this highly-amusing and endearing spectacle.

Seamlessly executed were ballet interpretations of folk dances including "Tinikling," "Maglalatik," "Pandanggo sa Ilaw" and "Sayaw sa Bangko." And everyone learned to get a closer look at creative versions of traditional games like pedrero, tagutan, subong and tumbang preso.

As Macuja arose to the program notes, BM had the "rare luxury" of performing to live accompaniment during "Pista" as they lived to the playful and Cebu brass of famed award-winning group Makiling (formerly Makiling Ensemble). The five-man band played familiar songs from their first two albums, "Modyo Modern" and "Patintero sa Balite ng Buwan," as well as classic OPMs like "Bahid Hapunan Ka ng Buhok Ko".

Competition pieces

BM also showcased some of the award-winning pieces it had used in past local and international dance competitions and tours.

Nene Guevarra passionately reprised Francisco's "Bayani" while Macuja and demi-soloist

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GENARDO Francisco and Nacer Salgado fight for the attention of Lisa Macuja-Elizalde in "Pista"

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Julie Bonnie S. Velarde

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Gelli loves hanging out with her kids (L) Dollywood /G4

INSIDE

- Presidents in a TV special, like stars /H4
- Gina wins Best Actress in Russia /G3

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2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 Imbisime: BINIBINIBINI - ROSA ROSALE
4 100 FEET
5 IMAGINE ME and YOU
6 I.T.A.L.Y.
7 BABYLON A.D.
8 RIGHTEOUS KILL
9 FOR THE FIRST TIME
10 DEATH RACE

ERMITA

1 FOR THE FIRST TIME
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 BABYLON A.D.
4 I.T.A.L.Y.
5 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 RIGHTEOUS KILL
9 100 FEET

METRO EAST

1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 ITALY
3 ITALY
4 RIGHTEOUS KILL
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 100 FEET
7 FOR THE FIRST TIME
8 GRANSEMOKERS

NOVALICHES

1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 ITALY
3 RIGHTEOUS KILL
4 SERBIS

PIONEER

1 BABYLON A.D.
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 I.T.A.L.Y.
4 100 FEET

STA. ROSA

1 ROGUE
2 PERFECT CREATURE
3 I.T.A.L.Y.
4 BANK JOB

LIPA

1 ITALY
2 DEATH RACE
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 BIG STAN

DASMARINAS

1 PERFECT CREATURE
2 I.T.A.L.Y.
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

IMUS

1 I.T.A.L.Y.
2 RIGHTEOUS KILL
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME

ANGELES

1 ITALY
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 FOR THE FIRST TIME
4 LOST in BEIJING

STARMILLS

1 ROGUE
2 I.T.A.L.Y.
3 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
4 FOR THE FIRST TIME
5 BABYLON A.D.
6 PROJECT X

BACOLOD

1 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
2 I.T.A.L.Y.
3 BABYLON A.D.
4 DEATH RACE
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
6 BOY CULTURE

ILOILO

1 BABYLON A.D.
2 BANGKOK DANGEROUS
3 I.T.A.L.Y.
4 DEATH RACE
5 FOR THE FIRST TIME
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Pinoys win 2 top awards in Russia

By Raquel San Diego Jr.

CONTROVERSIAL FILIPINO film "Serbis" won two top awards at the Pacific Meridian International Film Festival held in Vladivostok, Russia from Sept. 13 to 18.

Brillante Mendoza was named Best Director and lead star Gina Pareño, Best Actress.

"Serbis," the 86th entry in the entire competition of the Cannes International Film Festival last May, received negative reviews from international critics. "That's why I feel vindicated now," Mendoza told the Inquirer via SMS on Friday night.

The movie is about a family in Pampanga living in a decrepit theater that is a front for male prostitution.

Mendoza competed with 18 other filmmakers from Asia Pacific countries, including the US, Brazil, Australia, Singapore, New Zealand and Russia.

Indian filmmaker Sivajee Chandrasekaran's "Vriksha" won the first Stalker Grand Prix. Canadian director Annie Barbeau Lavalette's "The Fight" won the Special Jury Prize.

According to the festival's website, the Best Director award comes with a $15,000 cash prize; the Best Actress honor, with $10,000.

The all-female jury was headed by Denmark's Vibeke Windeløv who produced hits such Trier's Riket, including the Cannes 1996 Grand Jury Prize winner, "Breaking the Waves."

The members were Japanese actress Momoi Kaori, Korean producer Oh Jungwon, US producer Sarah Isoh and Russian director Svetlana Proskurina.

Prize in hosting for Russia, Mendoza wrote a letter to Eduardo Andaya, secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, appealing the reimbursement of his expenses at the Cannes film fest.

Mendoza said he requested for P1.5 million but the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) approved only P1.1 million, which was reduced to P962,000 by the DBM.

In the end, Mendoza said he received only P696,997.20 five months after the Cannes event.

Lali Santos, FDCP executive director, said the bayonne dust the grant was subject to government accounting procedures. "Mendoza failed to produce required documents and receipts," she said, so he didn't get his full reimbursement.

RED IS BACK

"Himpapawid," Raymond Red's (in black) full-length feature drama which he wrote and directed, has started principal photographing with OA-based actor Raul Arellano in the lead role. The movie also stars John Arcilla, Soliman Cruz, Raul Morit, Karlo Montemayor, and Ronnie Lazaro. Produced by Pelikulared, Pilmet, Inc., and Ignite Media, "Himpapawid" is the first Filipino feature to be shot on the silicon high definition digital camera RED one 4K. Executive producers are Red, Jimmy Duavit, Dave Rubosa and Bogie Lipana. Associate producer is Oli Lopez. Red's "debut" is the first Filipino film to win the Palme d'Or at the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival (2000).

ABS-CBN PRESIDENT CHARO SANTOS-Concio, who led employees and talents on the 20th leg of the network's "Inspirasyon" project (aimed at reviving the "inspirasyon" spirit in mental health), in her homecoming, Cotipan, Oriental Mindoro, where a feeding program is being conducted. "Minsyang-minsyo ako na mali-abolish ito Cotipan, Mindoro and pakiramdam ko as pagbabik ito ay makakatulong po ang 'Inspirasyon' sa lugar na pinagmulan ko."

Tape-less TV production

ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION has announced that it is readying a milestone in Philippine broadcasting by being the first to do tape-less TV production in and out of the studios.

As such, the network declared in an information dispatch for its 55th anniversary, the country is also the first in Southeast Asia to do this.

According to the statement, The Kapamilya Network set up a 100-percent non-linear post-production workflow ahead of other local stations. Since 2003, it has been increasing the number of its editing and audio workstations and server storage in cope with the rising volume of content, the statement said.

"We create about 90 percent of our own content. Not every GMA produces this much," Head Rahming, Technical Operations Division head, was quoted as saying.

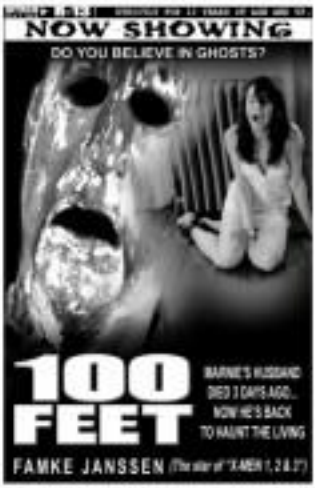
Patrick Degenhardt, ABS-CBN Head of Technical Research and Development, added that digitalization of TV production will improve efficiency and video quality and save time and costs.

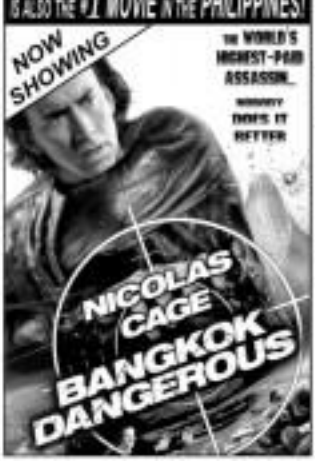
Degenhardt said ABS-CBN can now record a game show in the studio or tape a teleserye on location without using video tapes.

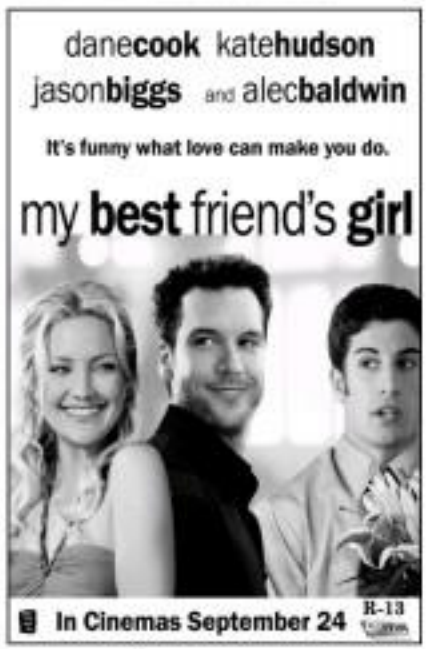
"[We] will be using servers instead of video tape recorders. These servers transfer the videos as files through our computer network, like e-mails," he said.

In terms of post-production work, Technical Production Operations assistant head Arvin Dela Vega said, the shift also means shorter editing time by as much as four hours for a game show, like "The Singing Bee."

Further, Rahming said, with the setup that involves RAID, DVD and Betacam, the the station's gateways to Digital Media Asset Management, which provides a secure media archive, "Our audience can access our library of TV shows—200,000 hours of video and counting—from their PC, laptop or TV."







Shake, stir and swoon

On the set of a horror franchise, fans ogle bloody, disfigured hunks

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Marc Gabriel Rigol

JC DE Vera's face-cut and-soiled

ISLAND, CAVITE—LIKE MOTHS to a flame, fans were drawn to the bright lights of a movie set. Never mind that the movie was Regal's horror trilogy and only to film the crowd's Metro Manila Film Fest, "Shake, Rattle and Roll XI."

Line producer Sonya Tighe was unnerved. "This is an abandoned road. Nobody passes by here anymore and yet fans found us."

Though it was almost midnight, the watching hour, the local throng patiently waited for a glimpse of

HITLINE Dawn and Wendell Ramos

Bonbs Wendell Ramos and JC de Vera—their handsome faces disfigured by prosthetic scars and scabs) with fake blood—courtesy of makeup artist Noel Flores.

Noel explained that he uses colodion, unflavored gelatin to make the scars. "Rubber latex imitation mixed with wax works more or at least less."

Bruised bride

After half an hour in the makeup chair, Wendell, in sweaty gear, still managed to make fans swoon and shriek.

He was followed by his sweaty bride Helene Dawn to the makeup chair set up under a makeshift tent.

Noel's task was to cover Mylene's face and arms with stylized wounds. "I've lost count," Mylene said. "But the wounds are supposed to show that my character has gone through years of fighting with lesbians."

Entitled "Emergency," this "Shake" episode is directed by Mike Tuviera.

"I'm happy because my acting character has a back story," Mylene added. "She just didn't pop out of nowhere."

Wendell agreed: "Our makeup doesn't completely hide our face so that viewers can still see our pain."

Preparation

Wendell said he prepared for the part by watching monster flicks like "Wolf," "Underworld" and "28 Days of Night."

"I'll combine the different ideas I got from these movies so that my portrayal would still look original," he said.

It was Wendell's idea to cut holes and tear shirt so the gears and pulleys under his fingernails.

Like JC and Wendell, Mylene is thrilled to be part of the "Shake" franchise for the first time.

"When I was a kid, I watched the 'Refrigerator' episode of the first 'Shake,'" Mylene recounted. "I couldn't open our cr for weeks."

JC recalled that his favorite "Shake" story was the one that top-billed Shaniyn Reyes and "the water monster that jumped out of a toilet bowl. ("Shimay" episode of "Shake III".)

Wendell picked Hueber Barretto's "Manananggal" as the first "Shake," as well as Mendoza's "Aswang" to "Shake 8." so the complete

E-mail bayani.sandiego@philstar.com

SNEAK PEEK

OOOH, Richard, Judy-Ann Santos and Rommel Santiago

PHOTO BY JAY ISRAEL

Gabby indebted to fans, not to talent manager

GABBY CONCEPCION REMAINS UNDERinvited by the P22-million raid case filed against him by his manager Rina Francisco.

Trouble started when Gabby requested Mrs. Francisco to terminate his contract due to questionable business deals.

"I came here to make peace with everyone," Gabe said. "My life is an open book. It's sad that this is happening."

When cut to cry about Mommy Rina's allegation that he lied on citing no debt? "That amount should not be classed are used to justify scenarios," Gabe replied. "I'm sad I have to the lack of transparency and communication between her and me. It's a very trusting person. It's not about money but the principle behind it. I have all the evidence to prove that I'm innocent. It's really shocking! I'm just waiting for the right time to respond to it."

Gabby is insistent but not ignorant. He knows the ins and outs of the biz even if he has been out of the scene for quite some time.

Mommy Rose passed the way for Gabe's comeback but the rest rest of his own doing. That's where his charms and talent come in. His return wouldn't have been a success if the public did not welcome him back with open arms.

If there's anyone Gabby really indebted to, it's his fans who continues to cheer for him.

Culture shock

To lighten the mood, I asked Gabe how his wife Genevieve is handling all the controversies he's embroiled in. "She's still trying to figure out everything," he said. "Culture shock for her."

How often does he get to see RC? "It's more or less being twice-a-month as all hectic schedule maybe because we both are so busy. We usually hang out each other long as she's in town. I miss the days when she would visit me in the US and we have movie-watching times."

His equally famous daughter can never be seen for many because every time Gabby looks at the news, it's like seeing her "Mini Me #2."

Anniversary concert

Ogie Alcasid is in ecstatic about working with Judy Ann Santos for the first time. "We did a video for my song 'How Sure' which will be shown in my anniversary concert," Ogie said. "The concept is about forbidden love."

His 20-year-old love affair with music is what he will be celebrating on Sept. 27, 8 p.m. at the Big Dome. (Call 9115555.)

Hardest song for self-rating? "The one for my parents, 'For You,' and my kids, 'I Will Be Here For You.'"

What was the turning point of his career? "When I won Entertainer of the Year and had my first hit 'Masahin Ako.'"

Ogie has truly lived up to that song. He's so humble yet the biggest comic and go-to Ogie's one of the few who's got standup power.

Birthday treat

It was an advanced birthday treat to fly back to my second home Belo for the reopening of the ultimate party place in the South, Fiore, located at Southville 1102.38 Hil. After typhoon Frank wreaked havoc on Batangas, Fiore got flooded back into the groove really in after-cool music and classy ambiance.

It was just packed with celebrity party people like Tita Legaspi, who dragged all the scenes that he's engaged to a socialite after breaking up with Janice dela Rosa. I also spotted Gretchen Barretto's ex-cousin Antolino and Elsa Chia chilling.

DJ Jayson Villareal, Boomerang's hip-hop Stephen Ilo, host DJ Martin Pelgar, tobyc, dancers Jessame and Shawna kept the party mood going. Belo's Fiore's former couple Cedric and Engel Loring and Tata and Bobbi Laring for outdoing Frank by flooding Bobbi's party log fun.

Priceless memories

I'm turning a year younger today. As I look back and look ahead, I can't help but get melancholic. To remind anyone of, I'm listening to two-SPM collector's item CDs "Intel" and "Signature Hits" (Vics and Sloy). The first one includes "Hold On" (Side A), "Before I Let You Go" (Freestyle), "Fire" (Heidi Vedder), etc.

The second CD features "Sirens Every Day Goodbye" (Sharon Cuneta), "Don't Say Goodbye" (Regie Fernandez), "Kaella Mo, Isang Araw Ko" (VST & Co.), among other classic Disco pop songs. For only P200, you get to recapture priceless memories. Some that have, some that feeling!

Show biz secret

Gabbo sent show biz secretary, Gelli de Belen and ABS-CBN entertainment columnist Ambeth Cruz, to my house to deliver my birthday gift. Their secret? "It's really a decision to live peacefully," Gelli said. "I try not to party too much to avoid temptation. I focus on my family when I'm not at work. I try not to act like a celebrity when I'm off-cam. I want to be considered not for my work and not for what media wants to make me out to be."

No wonder the SPMBers are smooth.

Original 'Survivor'

Catch the 17th season of the original "Survivor" on Channel 11 every Friday, starting Sept. 26 at 2 p.m. on satellite and 7:25 p.m. on prime time, with replays on Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Dubbed "Survivor: Gabon," it is the reality show's most grueling adventure yet as contestants compete on the earth's last Eden. Parties found right on your TV screens.

PHRASING: Madame got so adrenal to my "family," as Belo—Kapil and Ogid Laring, Tata and Bobbi Laring, he say everyday of their kitchen, Nida Pagulon, Pauline Bascaling, Nonoy Viterbo, Cedric Zenaro, Sheila Bird, Vanessa Escalante and John de la Cruz and staff of my sanctuary Hotel Del Rio. Advantage to kapwarazzi!

E-mail senserngbolanbergz@yahoo.com

Katie Holmes debuts on Broadway amid anti-'cult' protests

NEW YORK—ACTRESS KATIE HOLMES won praise for her debut on Broadway on Thursday night, where she was cheered on by actor husband Tom Cruise and shouted at by anti-Scientology protesters outside the theater.

The drama started before the curtain went up as the Grand Schoenfeld Theater saw a group of about 20 protesters, some masked, chanting "Scientology is a cult" and "Free Katie," according to the New York Daily News.

Reuters

Shake, stir and swoon

On the set of a horror franchise, fans ogle bloody, disfigured hunks

By Reyner Sian Diego Jr
Photos courtesy of Marc Cubico of Regal

SILANG, CAVITE—LIKE MOTHS to a flame, fans were drawn to the bright lights of a movie set. Never mind that the movie was Regal's horror trilogy and entry to this December's Metro Manila Film Fest, "Shake, Rattle and Roll XI."

Line producer Soares Tiglo was amazed. "This is an abandoned road. Nobody passes by here anymore and yet fans found us."

Though it was almost midnight, the scorching heat, the head-throng patiently awaited for a glimpse of

JC DE Mars's face-cut and soiled

MYLENE Dizon and Wendell Ramos

leads Wendell Ramos and JC de Mars—their handsome faces disfigured by prosthetic scars and soiled with fake blood—courtesy of makeup artist Noel Flores.

Noel explained that he uses collective, unflavored gelatin to make the scars. "Rubber latex contains amoeba so it causes scars or allergies to it."

Bruised bride

After half an hour in the makeup chair, Wendell, in sewing gear, still managed to make time caress—and shriek.

He was followed by his cursing bride Mylene Dizon to the makeup chair set up under a makeshift tent.

Noel's task was to cover Mylene's face and arms with stylized wounds. "It's her debut," Mylene said. "But the wounds are supposed to show that my character has gone through years of fighting with lesbians."

Excited "Emergency" duo "Shake" episode is directed by Mike Tuviera.

"I'm happy because my acting character has a back story," Mylene related. "She just didn't pop out of nowhere."

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Preparation

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"It's somehow the different ideas I got from these movies so that my portrayal would still look original," he said.

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SNEAK PEEK

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JC revealed that his favorite "Shake" story was the one that top-billed Shanilyn Reynes and "the water monster that jumped out of a toilet bowl ("Nanay" episode of "Shake III")."

Wendell picked Herbert Bautista's "Manananggal" as the first "Shake," as well as Marilyn's "Aswang" to "Shake X," in the comphon.

E-mail: bayanisandiego@yahoo.com

DOUBLE Richard Judy Ann Santos and Rowell Santiago

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Trouble started when Gabby requested Mrs. Hernandez to terminate his contract due to irreconcilable business deals.

"I came here to make peace with everyone," Gabo said. "My life is an open book. It's sad that this is happening."

When we try to say about Mommy Rose's allegation that he has no money on hand? "That sum should not be abused nor used to justify evasion," Gabo replied. "The real issue to be the lack of transparency and communication between her and me. I'm a very trusting person. It's not about money but the principle behind it. I have all the evidence to prove that I'm innocent. It's really shocking! I'm just waiting for the right time to respond to it."

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How often does he get to see BC? "It's more or less every other weekend. Sometimes we'll have vacation together because our kids are so busy. We usually hang out with other kids as well. I miss the days when she would visit me in the US and we have more bonding time."

His equally famous daughter can never be mistaken every time Gabby looks at the mirror, it's like seeing his "Mini Me #2."

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DOLLY WOOD
Dolly Anne Carvajal

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Show biz secret

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PERSONAL: Idiakerz.ph@yahoo.com is my "family" in Iloilo—Brigid and Ced Ludeg, Bea and Bobik Lacuna, by my caretaker of their kindness; Mich Pegalan, Prudence Bacaling, Nonoy Tiberias, Cedric Severo, Sheila Bird, Vanessa Escalante and John de la Cruz and staff of my sanctuary Hotel Del Rio. Retrogge to kpo sweet.

E-mail: annewagholodotmgo@yahoo.com

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IN THIS once-grab, Katie Holmes kisses the Schoenfeld theatre after her Broadway debut Sept. 18.

DID YOU KNOW...

MUMBAI—INDIA WILL HOST THE NEXT "LIVE EARTH" CONCERT to raise funds for lighting homes with solar energy in places where people do not have access to electricity, organizers said. The Dec. 7 event is to be held in the financial capital Mumbai will see US rocker Jon Bon Jovi and Bollywood's biggest superstar, Amitabh Bachchan, share the stage. The concert is described by organizers as one of the biggest events held in India. Reuters

'Reality' TV turns unreal and even surreal in 'The Comeback'

REMEMBER LISA KUDROW? SAY man one of the stars of "Friends," the long-running sitcom, and co-penned the perfect if one-dimensional ditzy character? Well, Kudrow has had a rough time coming up with a follow-up series to maintain her career's upward trajectory.

Recently, however, Kudrow returned to television by way of a new sitcom titled, appropriately enough, "The Comeback" (8-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays on the Velvet channel). In it, she plays Valerie, a veteran TV star who, like Kudrow in real life, is trying to revive her career. Valerie auditions for a new sitcom; all she while being shot by a TV crew for a "reality" project on her day-to-day life.

Thus does "The Comeback" turn out to be a "show within a show," and their makers is more interesting than most new TV programs.

Intrusive, invasive

Its "reality" angle also enables the show to satirize the whole "reality TV" phenomenon that has become such a big deal for the past decade. It goes to town in this regard, showing how intrusive and invasive the TV crew that follows her all over the place can be. The program also shows how scripted and even revised "reality" TV can be.

It hews the deception basic to the reality mode itself, by showing how Valerie's every life is turned into a performance. An example of this is the way that she's made to "practice" her reaction to the news that her new sitcom has been given lighted for shooting during the fall TV season.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"The Comeback" also spoofs how some sitcoms are cast and shot. At first, Valerie is told that she's playing one of the single girls in the cast of her new sitcom. Soon, however, the show's producers behind-the-scenes realize that she's too old for the lead role, so she's soon seen as a sexy aunt and neighbor!

The cold and even cruel way that she's pushed their way and that leaves some TV people's lack of respect for the feelings of the various they work with.

Industry spoof

Poor Valerie is forced to roll with the punches, all the while trying to keep a smile plastered on her face, especially since her every reaction is caught for posterity by the TV crew that dogs her from morning till night.

So, "The Comeback" ends up spoofing not just reality TV but also the television industry's production set-up as a whole. In by credit, the program's satirical jabs and digs also are as insightful as they are relentless. This is the major reason why we find the new show more instructive and original than many new TV shows.

Kudrow's portrayal of Valerie is another plus factor. Our heart goes out to her as she tries to retain her self-respect, even as the people she works with do their best—and their worst!—to crush her.

There's a lesson or two in there, somewhere, not just for Valerie but for those who take up a career in "go-show biz." As the very least, they should do it with their eyes wide open, and this is where cautionary shows like "The Comeback" can be of immense help.

'Sharon Up Close'

After her big "Magnificent" concert, Sharon Cuneta opts for a more intimate setting for her new show, "Sharon: Up Close," at the Captain's Bar of Manhattan Oriental Hotel, on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2. Musical directors is by Louie Ocampo.

The change of venue, pace and scope is refreshing and appealing, so "Sharon Up Close" is shaping up as a standout on the Megastar's fans' look.

The Artist House production is being presented by McDonald's and Globe, with the support of Sony BMG Music Entertainment. See the benefit of Chanda Children Foundation. Call 617-4688, 691-9999, 721-0726 or the Mondaritz at 750-6888 local 24-96.

Luna Awards nominations

Nominees for the Luna Awards for 2007 have been announced by Film Academy of the Philippines director-general Leo Martinez. For Best Picture: "A Love Story," "Rated," "Tears of Love," "One More Chance" and "Tahkil, Tahkil, Tahkilo." Best Director: Maryo J. delos Reyes ("A Love Story"), Cesar Apolinario ("Rated"), Eddie Romero ("Tears of Love"), Jose Javier Reyes ("Tahkil, Tahkil, Tahkilo") and Joel Lamangan ("Filip").

A weekly docu on street life

"KALYE: MGA KUWENTO AT Larawan," a weekly documentary on what's happening on the streets, premieres tonight on ABS-CBN after "Bandila."

Stories like the demolition of shanties, cutting down of trees and otherwise workless will be presented by ABS-CBN news reporters Aries Atanilo, Sol Aragones and DZMM commentator and veteran radio reporter Anthony Taberna.

The show will feature action-packed footage and short segments about survival techniques in the urban jungle.

Charice on 'Oprah'

Oprah reassures with some of the world's smartest kids, including 21-year-old Filipino singing sensation Charice Pempengco in the episode to be replayed Sept. 28, 8 p.m. on the Multinetwork Channel.

Also in the special are a 2-year-old geography whiz, a 7-year-old piano prodigy, history's youngest film director and 7-year-old dish dancing sensations.

'Biyahang Sikreto'

A group of beggars have found a receiver very around the current food crisis.

KALE Aragones in 'Kalye'

KALE David in 'I-Witness'

Award with a long list of all the feeding programs taking place, the gang gets free breakfast, lunch, dinner and even snacks in between.

Who needs a job, they ask, if you can get free food everyday?

Kara David follows the group on their unique daily search for sustenance tonight in "I-Witness" on GMA 7.

Chesca's wedding

TV host Chesca Garcia's countdown to her upcoming wedding is getting closer. Inside 12 will be airing his exclusive coverage in "Us Girls," a lifestyle magazine TV show, on Oct. 12.

Meanwhile, the show has been following Chesca and PBA player Doug Kramer's wedding preparations to give viewers a closer look at their love story, their relationship with each, and the preparations for the big day.

"Us Girls," hosted by Chesca, Angel Aquino and Iya Villania, airs on Sundays, 9 p.m. on Studio 23.

'Halls of Anger'

A flinch on basketball player, now actor principal at is gloom ordered for his hometown, must face the bitterness and revenge of estrangement in "Halls of Anger" tonight at 9 on MGM.

Calvin Locklear, Janet MacLachlan and Jeff Bridges star.

On Sept. 26 at 9 p.m., the movie channel presents "Willowbend," a story of a 17th century pirate in search of treasure. He is accompanied by his son, who has the location of the treasure tattooed on his head.

The parody on early crime movies stars Peter Boyle and John Cleese.

Mya VJ search

Twelve finalists will compete for the Mya VJ Search 2008 on Oct. 11 at the Trinoma Ayala Mall.

The show, "Mya Presents: The Mya VJ Search 2008" will be aired on Mya, Sky Cable Channel 23 on Cen. 23.

To cast their votes for their favorite VJs, viewers may key in MYAVJ (space) number of VJ finalist and send to 2366. Voting ends Oct. 18.

New cartoon series

Five brave teenagers set out on a global adventure for five long year journeys from the Greeks, Aurora, Cavern of the Gods in "Power Rangers: Operation: Overdrive," which premieres Oct. 11, 8:30 a.m. on Cartoon Network.

The teens solve puzzles, complete mythical tasks and overcome battles to reach down the gems.

Artists . . .

(From page 4)

ranking concert, also at the Quezon Convention, said he was producing an album about peace that will feature Villania and Fernandez for the benefit of the Universal Peace Foundation, formed organizer worldwide.

"We want to make this an event bigger event for music people and other artists to take part," said Villania, a TV host and actress, who was involved in two previous festivals.

"Being artists and performers, we do not only want to achieve peace but also seek to inspire the young kids to become ensigns of peace in their lives," said international Filipino pop star Cowdrel.

Cowdrel, Bersola and Lawrence are first-time performers in the festival.

"I am very thankful for this opportunity and I hope to see people loved the call for peace," said

Artists perform for peace in Mindanao

From page H1

Escueta, a rising acoustic singer-actress involved in several music-oriented projects.

Lawrence, grand champion of a reality-based talent competition, further stressed the significance of the event. "I am truly overwhelmed by the magnitude of this undertaking, what it means for the whole world."

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

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VIDEL Ramos, left, shows Arnold Clavio his lighter side and sneak-hires off with an autographed photo; Jessica Soho, right, notes that Ating Cory has stopped coloring her hair and proudly wears it gray now

Presidents in a TV special, just like stars

By Marinel R. Cruz

HOLLYWOOD-STYLE, was how actor and former Philippine president Joseph Estrada described the way he "directed" a two-hour interview he recently had with GMA 7 newscaster Vicky Morales.

The interview is part of a TV special titled "Sovereigns," which also features the country's three other living presidents—Gloria Arroyo, Fidel Ramos and incumbent Gloria Macapagal Arroyo—and former first lady Imelda Marcos.

Morales told entertainment writers during a gathering at the Ch 7 offices, "He was so excited, that he was ready a full hour before call time. He jokingly told our production team, 'I suppose we never wrote for anyone.'"

Estrada even went as far as to check all of the five cameras installed in the living room of his house on Polk Street in San Juan, Morales recounted.

"At first he complained about not setting his expensive living room carpet ... then he wandered with the lights seen. He knows which camera angle is flattering to him. Just before the cameras started rolling, he called out, 'Watch me. I know what I'm doing.'"

Morales said, "His segment may as well be labeled 'Directed by Joseph Estrada.' He claimed it as all."

SNEAK PEEK

Charming Imelda

"She's charming as Hilda," said newscaster Mel Tiangco of her "24 Oras" jamboree Mike Enriquez. "He slammed his way into the heart of Imelda Marcos." Tiangco said Imelda was so enamored of Enriquez, that she gave him a personal tour of her Sta. Rita home.

"She proudly showed us her jewelry collection," Enriquez recalled. "She said she made them herself. She repeatedly talked about 'The Good, The Truth and The Beautiful.' That's her theme until now."

He observed that, for a woman in her late 70s, Imelda was physically "well-maintained." He said Imelda mentioned to "female pride in what her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, had done for the country and, ultimately, in her own achievements. She is very caught up with the Marcos legacy and its preservation."

At one point, according to Enriquez, "Newsmaker" director Donn Garcia asked Imelda to hold a pose. To date, the former First Lady replied, "Oh, would you like it to be bankable?"

Program manager Ellen Marie Macmilan said Imelda brought out four dresses for the interview, "but she ended up wearing only a gown actor/ Marvelous said also present at the shoot was Imelda's loyal handmaiden, who has worked with the former first lady for 34 years.

IMELDA Marcos gives Mike Enriquez a tour of her house.

No hair coloring

Comelec Commissioner Aguinis, who was diagnosed with colon cancer in March, is now sporting gray hair, said broadcaster Jessica Soho, who interviewed "Ating Cory" in the latter's home on Times Street in Quezon City.

"She has stopped dyeing her hair, based on hair," explained Soho. "But she looked okay. One of her daughters even told me that she's making better noise on, like before, when she would just push her food around her plate."

Aquino's daughters Pinky, Pinky Viel and Kris also talked with Soho about their mom's condition. "Kris [an endocrine talent of rival network ABS-CBN] even volunteered to do her portion at the GMA 7 Studios," added Soho.

Tough subject

Of the five subjects, Marvelous said, her team had the hardest time with President Macapagal-Arroyo. "Her schedule was so hectic, we had only 10 minutes with her," Marvelous said.

Tiangco, who sat down with the PGMA, had a very interesting observation. "She sounded [inflexible about her priorities]. She said her family was only third on her list. God comes first, and then the country."

The broadcasters noted that the President refused to answer questions about First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Morales added, "There were moments when we felt the man about to snap at us. But Gloria Arroyo managed to make her smile, even inviting her to attend his parade [Monday]."

"But," Tiangco remembered, "she was very patient all throughout the picture-taking."

Signed certificates

So was Erap, Imelda, recalled Clavio said. "He calls photographs 'certificates of appearance.' He signs them and gives them away to guests. He use leaves his office without one of the autographed photos."

Clavio, a golf enthusiast, also got a golf ball as a present from the former president.

"In the interview, we see that Ramos—military man and his enforcer...has a light side," said Clavio.

"Newsmakers" will also feature never-before-seen footage and little-known facts about the most powerful people in recent Philippine history. The TV special airs Sept. 28, 10:30 p.m.

E-mail: mcruz@inquirer.com.ph

MEL Tiangco had very limited time with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

18 slug it out on 'Survivor Gabon' African adventure

A BETWEEN NURSE, A PINUP MODEL, an Olympic gold medalist and two lawyers are among the 18 castaways who will compete in the newest version of the reality show "Survivor," to premiere Saturday, September 27, on GMA 7.

The 17th installment of the Emmy Award-winning series will feature these individuals on an African adventure in "Survivor: Gabon, Earth's Last Eden," which premieres on QTV 11 Sept. 28.

"Good versus evil emerges as a major theme this season. I think the audience will quickly identify with one group or the other," said program host Jeff Probst, a two-time Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Host.

• RANDY BAILEY, 49, is a wedding videographer. He describes himself as a "ruthless bully." Randy's hobbies include scuba diving, marathon running and triathlons.

• JACQUIE BIDEL, 23, a medical sales representative, has competed in gymnastics, water polo, and tennis, too. She is also a writer and a charity organizer.

• DANNY "SET" BROWN, 26, learned to swim and fish in the Colorado River and has since developed a love of the outdoors. He works as a maintenance supervisor for the apartment complex where he lives in.

• MICHELLE CHASE, 34, a music production assistant, says she is ready to bring her street smarts and fearlessness to "Survivor."

• CRYSTAL COX, 20, is an Olympic gold medalist for track and field. Crystal, a single mother, also works as a children's teacher and a high school track coach.

• ROBERT "BOB" CROWLEY, 50, is a Physics teacher in Gotharis, Maine. When not on an adventure, Robert enjoys journal writing, photography archeology and camping.

• KELLY CZARNECKI, 22, a retail sales agent, hopes to one day open her own clothing store. Kelly describes herself as a "self-esteem quitter who loves the outdoors."

• ACE GORDON, 27, is a Garden Jewelry sales agent. He has also sold cars for Porsche, been a manager (tempo) and cooked for a resort in Hawaii.

• CHARLIE HERSCHEL, 29, a lawyer, says he is ready to try his persuasion skills on a different type of jury on "Survivor." Charlie says he has recently dropped 60 pounds and continues to be at "fighting weight."

• KEN HOANG, 32, is a professional gamer. Ken says his tournament winnings are help support his family. He has drained Mt. Fuji at age 20.

• CORRINE JOSEPH, 29, a pharmaceutical sales agent, says she takes great pride in being able to "manipulate" people around her. Corinne says she is looking to reinforce her alpha status that she's transcending subtle rivalry to self-form one behind close backs.

• JOAN KAY, 32, earned his law degree from Syracuse University. Prior to hosting for "Survivor," Jon spent three years from his job, in an effort to "focus more on himself and family."

• JESSICA "JESSIE" KIPER, 29, is a pin-up model. When she's not acting, she works as a waitress at a "Hooters" restaurant. Jessie says she has been through a lot in her life, including the recent death of her father.

• GILLIAN LARSON, 31, worked as a nanny for 11 years. She has traveled through 46 countries and all but a few US states, often backpacking. For her honeymoon she got people hurriedly tattoo on her left hip.

• MARCUS LEHMAN, 26, is a doctor. He has been declared the nurse of Georgia's hottest bachelor by Georgia Magazine in 2006. He is a runner and a triathlete.

• SUSIE SMITH, 47, is born into a Mexican immigrant family of crop field workers. She currently works as a hairdresser and an assistant coach at a non-English speaking academy.

• JALOMA SOTO-CASTELLO, 24, is a student. Her parents were both raised in Mexico, where she would just push her food around her plate."

NEW CASTAWAYS. (back row, from left) Michelle Chase, Charlie Herschel, Paloma Soto-Castillo, Corinne Kapter, Crystal Cox, Dan Kay, Jessica Kiper, Ace Gordon, Joaquin Berg, Kelly Czarnecki, Marcus Lehman, Mindy Whitmore and Bob Crowley. (front row, from left) Gillian Larson, Susie Smith, Ken Hoang, Randy Bailey and Danny Brown compose in "Survivor: Gabon—Earth's Last Eden," which premieres Friday, on QTV 11.

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What happens when Frannie takes the school bus / 14

LEARNING

Editor: Cheche Banal Ponferrada

The school behind all that womanpower

Assumption College strives to produce women graduates who want to serve and are committed to social change

COLLEGE president Sister Ceci Icasiano talks to three students who should be able to count from assistance in any field they choose.

By Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rachel Raluni

IN HER OWN WAY, ANNE-EUGENIE MILLERET DE BROU WAS A TRUE FEMINIST. At a time when women were expected to stay in the background and tend to home and hearth, the French nun made their education the advocacy of the Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption that she founded in 1839. Canonized last year by Pope Benedict XVI, St. Marie Eugenie always recognized the crucial role of women in the transformation of society and saw education as the way to allow them assume their rightful places in society.

St. Marie Eugenie believed in empowering women and having them developing to their full potential so they could be the best in whatever they wanted to be—pursue careers outside the home or be smiling and contented homemakers.

Of course, all that transformational education had to be anchored on faith and religiosity.

Milestone

As one of the schools her congregation founded, the Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, marks another milestone, St. Marie Eugenie remains the guiding light, the constant inspiration for their vision, mission and day-to-day work.

Assumption marks this year the 90th anniversary of its transfer to Makati City after decades in Manila.

Founded in the 19th century within Intramuros, the school moved to Ilustre (now Pedro Gil) after the Second World War. A steady rise in enrollment required another move whence a decade later, to the present site where it apparently intends to remain.

Just as it physically transformed itself to cope with a growing clientele, Assumption also tweaked its programs to meet changing demands of a new millennium and modern technology.

ACTIVITIES as develop self-esteem and keep the girls fit include swimming.

STUDENTS learn about other religions, including Buddhism, through Assumption's a Catholic school.

Innovative, excellent

But the goals and the core values remain: reverent, the vision clear and simple: To be "an innovative Catholic women's college committed to excellent education for leadership and social transformation."

Despite being an all-girls school, Assumption sees itself as more than a feeding school where students acquire knowledge to be valuable assets to society.

While the girls are also taught how to dress and behave in polite company, there is no doubt Assumption also expects its graduates to be able to stand head and center in any field they choose.

One of the first lessons students learn from Dr. Carmen "Pinky" Wilder, executive dean of the Marie Eugenie School for Innovative Learning (Mesil) that covers the teaching (education) programs and communication courses, is to lift their chins and take pride in who and what they are.

"Every student has to stand up and speak," Wilder says. "The core (of a student at Assumption) is her talent, not her IQ."

Assumption believes to instill intelligence so it is forged from Day One on developing self-esteem and self confidence among its students so they can venture into any field.

Wilder says they want alumnae to pursue jobs where they are comfortable and happy even if difficult.

And they seem to have done just that with alumnae running large, diversified businesses (Vicente Ayala-Gozon of the SM group), the Philippines' number one newspaper (Isabel and daughter Marie Isabel Pobre and Alexandra Prieto Romualdez, board chair and president, respectively of Inquirer), a chain of five-star restaurants (Margarita "Gaita" Perez of the Cibo Inc.) and the country itself (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo); as budding award-winning films (Marilou Diaz-Abaya), among others.

Blend of old and new

Assumption has skillfully blended old and new, maintaining its strengths even as it responds to emerging challenges.

Assistant dean Dr. Carmen Lopez of the Milbert School of Business and Management for Women (MSBAM) says Girls now make entrepreneurship women, for instance, have dovetailed quite nicely with a felt need among overseas Filipino workers and their daughters to prepare for their eventual return to the country.

Through with being paid workers and concerned that their savings do not go to waste, OFWs are eyeing entrepreneurship as the vehicle that will allow them to "multiply" carefully hard-earned assets and firmly secure the future of their families.

Lopez found that a University of the Philippines graduate could find a comfortable niche in an exclusive school, hearing echoes of her Alma Mater in the college's effort "to give (women) education."

Lopez says the Assumption sisters have set policies that allow the school to develop women leaders and managers. They recognize that "women are the key factor in effecting change" whether as mother, exponent of industry or national officials.

The efforts have not gone unrecognized. Assumption has been granted the highest status of "autonomous" by the Commission on Higher Education.

"In its commitment to excellence and being exemplars of integrity and committed responsible."

Both deans say the school's founder was "very current, very now." The school educates women who want to serve and make a difference and are committed to social change. They say, "One of the things the school does very well is give them (women) substance." A curse seems to encouraging students to write on women's issues.

Assumption's mission statement says it all. "Inspired by St. Marie Eugenie, we passionately form persons and communities of faith and action through a transformative education that increases faith and spirituality, pursues academic excellence for service and instills social responsibility, thus forging character for life and life for God."

The Assumption College (San Lorenzo Drive, tels. 8170737 and 8177773, www.assumption.edu.ph) will have an open House on Sept. 27, 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m., during which high school seniors who wish to be Assumptionistas can take the college entrance exam for free.

DR. CORAZON "BUKU" LOPEZ's college now focuses on entrepreneurship.

CLASS ACT

Talent is language

THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, section E, of the Colegio San Agustin won first runner-up during the Sobrang Pagtingin Finals Level 2 held at the school theater in Bacoor Bel Village, Makati City in observance of the annual National Language Month. With the theme Ama, the class focused on the concept of multi-linguialism. Though the class did not win first prize, many members of the audience found its performance entertaining, unique and innovative, according to class member Bernadette Santos who said in this photo, "Some judges said watching the presentation was like watching a performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which made the class feel like world champions." (Photo by Marvin Espiritu)

La Salle Lipa students at Entrep Corner

STUDENTS OF DE LA SALLE LIPA are showcasing innovative business ventures until Sept. 27 in Robinsons Malls' Entrep Corner, Robinsons Place Lipa, Level 2, Food Alley. A total of 15 student companies are participating. This is the third time De la Salle Lipa is featured in the Entrep Corner. Products on display come from Dough You Like It, House of Basil, Empanadinada, Sutton, Wasabi Wok, Fusionup Company Inc., Dinahn Tea, The Big Bean JKL Company, Krishkorn Ice Cream Company, Heavenly Soft Bread Cake, Art Spoken Inc., Chocoholic, Coffee Lane, Nachen's Beverage, and Icing Galore. Rosazon Cocobuds-Arbogast, Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) center relations manager, said some of the participants were only 18 years old but already showed potentials for successful entrepreneurs. The Entrep Corner has hosted Mirizon College, San Beda College, and De la Salle University-Dasmari-nas. Interested schools can call the Corporate PR Department, 5808000/5808001-50 local 791, 792, or e-mail rbacruz@robinsons-land.com.

Playgrounds for the MIND

Claret sets 2008 grand alumni homecoming

THE CLARET SCHOOL of Quezon City high school Class of 1983 is spearheading the grand alumni homecoming dubbed "Let's Get Real... yyyyyy to Reunite!" on Oct. 18 at the Claret School campus. The event is expected to bring together classmates from high school Class 1975 to Class 2008, along with their teachers. Registration starts at 1 p.m. Activities lined up include a sports fest, homecoming Mass and the blessing of the Commemorative Trees Made-to-A fellowship night will cap the event. For inquiries, please call 9218687 loc. 214

TIP signs Memorandum of Agreement with Cal Poly

THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of the Philippines (TIP) Manila and Quezon City has entered into an Academic Exchange Agreement with the College of Engineering of the California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) in San Luis Obispo, California, United States. The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Dr. Elizabeth G. Lahoz, TIP president...and Dr. Mohammad N. Noori, dean of the Cal Poly College of Engineering. Through the MOA...the schools will have academic exchanges and cooperations in all fields.

(Photo shows TIP president Elizabeth G. Lahoz with TIP alumna Noven Villamin (left) and Cal Poly professor Dr. Taufik of Cal Poly who was guest professor at TIP.

St. Paul College-Pasig's program for toddlers

ST. PAUL COLLEGE-PASIG launched recently the Toddlers' Program for children aged 2 to 3 ½ years. Sr. Teresita Bellosa, SPC, school director, said the program would expose kids to varied experiences through their senses and let them explore by themselves through different media. Activities would emphasize play and learning like children's self-worth. The program will also focus on the formation and development of essential life skills. Activities are designed to make children more independent, increase their awareness of their talents and abilities, and develop skills to be life-long learners. St. Paul College-Pasig is located near the Ortigas business and commercial district. Admission to the Toddler and Preschool Programs is ongoing. Call 6211935 or visit www.spcpasig.edu.ph.

La Salle Night High School's alumni homecoming

THE ADULT NIGHT HIGH SCHOOL of La Salle Green Hills marks its second anniversary with a reunion of its graduates and former students on Sept. 27 at De La Salle Promenade. Other activities during the yearlong celebration, with the theme "The Adult Night High School: 20 Years of Transforming Lives," include the "Students' Sports Fest and Parents-Kindergarten' Family Day. For the past 20 years, the school has helped hundreds of marginalized-but deserving students by providing them with the tuition and relevant education at a minimal cost. This year, the school expects to graduate its oldest student aged 73.

CEU identifies provincial testing centers

EIGHT SCHOOLS will serve as Centers for Excellence University's Provincial Testing Centers this year. Entrance examination application forms are now distributed by the partner schools. The schools and their examination dates are: Don Bosco Technical Institute, Tarlac City, Tarlac, (045) 9021118, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m.; St. Scholastica's Academy, San Fernando City, Pampanga, (045) 4350488/961 0208 loc. 217, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.; St. Joseph's College, East Bajac-Bajac, Olongapo City, (047) 2350486, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.; College of the Immaculate Conception, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, (044) 4600120/4600121 loc. 113, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.; Sacred Heart College, Lucena City, Quezon, (042) 7100888, MED Guidance Center, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.; Canossa Academy, Lipa City, Batangas, (043) 7551859 to 7561209 loc. 138, Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m.; Canossa College, San Pablo City, Laguna, (049) 5623880 loc. 240, Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m.; Tomas del Rosario College, Balanga City, Bataan, (047) 2315021, Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m.

Week-long celebration of UE's foundation anniversary

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST marks its 62nd foundation anniversary on Sept. 21-27 at the Manila and Caloocan campuses. Theme of the week-long celebrations is "We Love UE." The week began with a fun run on Sept. 21 in Caloocan that featured the participation of Caloocan City Vice Mayor Tiw Varela, a UE alumnus. The P. S. Domingo Cup golf tournament in honor of the late UE chairman will be held on Sept. 23 at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City. Other activities include a talk by Dr. Jesse P. Estanislao, homecoming runner-up UE alumnus Clarence dela Fuente and the UE Chorale. University Service Awards to recognize model employees and longtime personnel, and Coronation of Alumni Sweetheart is a.m. Students wanting to enroll at the university can take the college entrance test for free and tour the Manila and Caloocan campuses on Sept. 24-25, from 8 a.m. On Sept. 26, the UE community will plant 62 trees starting at 8 a.m. in the open field in the Caloocan campus. Call 7300411 loc. 422 or 439 or visit www.ue.edu.ph.

Adamson to undertake projects with Chinese schools

FOUR ADAMSON UNIVERSITY administrators went to China recently to promote goodwill and propose joint projects. Upon the invitation of Dr. Fang Wen Sheng, director for International Cooperation and Exchange Department of the Sias International University, Ana Liza M. Rogers, Rosalinda M. Galarosa, Marinela Pefianco and Dr. Ramon Manuel went to China and met with Dr. Xu Xiaoqiu, dean of the board, and Li Ba Jun, university president. Founded by Shen, a Chinese immigrant to the United States, Sias International University is the first American-owned university to come to China. An 800 plans to build its own sewage plant. (The students went to the Yellow River, cradle of Chinese Civilization) (YPICT) a gov-e-tenant-run school that is a model for water treatment in China. Regional estimates Adamson will spend less than P7 million to build its own sewage plant. YPICT will send two engineers in 800. The plant is expected to take some 90 days to build and will have a life span of 50 years.

Karuwagan festival at O.B. Montessori

THE SECOND HARUBINGAN FESTIVAL held at the O.B. Montessori Center in Greenhills, San Juan City, celebrates the teaching of social studies in the 21st century. It highlights the outstanding of social studies and introduced the social studies framework of the Social and Human Sciences Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) National Commission of the Philippines. Attended by 700 delegates from all over the country. It featured 50 speakers including Ambassador Precious D. Simbeo, Presidential Adviser on Education Maria Encinas-Franco, Undersecretary Mona Valisno of Unesco commissioner Fidel Da. Marilo, Dr. Glenda Peñaroz, Dr. Jose Mourice, and Wilfredo Villacorta, Professor Jo Beth Lee of Iloilo Women's University to Social Korea, talked on the "Teaching of Philosophy for Children." Exhibits were mounted by the Center for Moderate Moslems, Ateneo Center, Ateneo Press, Ateneo de Manila University, Blanco Family Academy, Education Network, Historical Institute, Popular Education for People's Empowerment, Lutheran Foundation and Unesco National Commission.

Letran offers 2009 accountancy scholarships

MR. MARIFLAME LARA, D.P., rector and president of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Intramuros, Manila, has announced the launch of the nationwide search for 80 Accountancy scholars for school year 2008-09 (S.Y. 0). Lara is inviting top graduates of 2008 high school graduating classes to apply for the grants that include free tuition and miscellaneous fees, free board and lodging within the campus, as well as book, uniform and laundry allowances. Those coming from the provinces will also get transportation allowances. Scholarship examination will be held Sept. 27 and Dec. 20, 1-5 p.m., in Metro Manila.

Interested applicants must belong to the Top 10 of at least 200 graduating students from both private and public schools, and the top two among graduates of private schools with less than 200 reg-ister students. An annual gross family income of not more than P250,000 is also required for a graduate to be qualified to apply. A certification from the principal or the registrar that the applicant is in good moral character has to be submitted along with photocopies of a student's report card and birth certificate, two copies of 2"x2" ID picture, photo copy of the income tax return (ITR) of the parents s. The applicant must register experience colleges in the scholarship implementation and pass an interview. Interested students should visit the Admissions Office, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, 151 Muralla St., Intramuros, Manila, or the school's website www.letran.edu.

RATED PG *Are you a parent with educational concerns? Do you have tips to share with other parents? Rants? Raves? E-mail us at learning@inquirer.com.ph.*

Parents as teachers

HICD is now a second-year high school student at GCF International Christian School after completing elementary at home.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Hogan (center) is in pre-school while 12-year-old Sam (right) is now in Grade 7.

By Mike & Pearl Villa-Real

THE STUDENTS KNOW THEIR TEACHERS very well. They do not rush to catch the 8:00 a.m. school bus yet are never late. Their hours is always fresh and hot and they get to go out of town with their parents any time of the year.

The school that makes all this possible is right in the kids' home.

Our children have been homeschooled for over six years now. Despite the ups and downs, the journey has been worth it.

In broad terms, homeschool is an alternative educational system that uses the parental type of teaching. Parents have direct responsibility over their children's education, guided by an accredited educational institution.

Our children attended regular school before they "escaped home." But we knew some parents who were homeschooling their kids.

One thing that attracted us to the concept was the fact that their kids passed entrance examinations of top high schools like the Philippine Science High School, Manila Science High School and the Ateneo.

Though homeschooling is a novel concept to most Filipinos—we get varying reactions from plain curiosity to downright shock—it is practiced widely in the United States. Latest statistics put homeschool students at two million, with the number growing by 25 percent a year. American families say they homeschool their kids because they want to give them a much better academic education.

Better performers

Studies suggest homeschooled American children perform better on the average than those in public schools in standardized achievement tests. They are also being admitted and offered scholarships to Ivy League institutions.

The key is subject mastery. The parent does not move to the next lesson until a child has mastered the current one. A classroom teacher cannot do the same with 25-50 students.

At present, very few schools offer home education programs to the country. A pioneer is The Master's Academy (TMA), the first to get accredited by the Department of Education (DepEd) for pre-, elementary and high school.

Most homeschool parents still say their children learn more using a guided program than in a regular classroom. Our second child, a 12-year-old girl who last attended regular school in first grade, does not want to go back to her old school. She remembers her teachers screaming at the other kids and a class bully eating her lunch.

> Famous people who were homeschooled include Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Alva Edison, Florence Nightingale, Claude Monet and Amadeus Mozart

This (http://www.homeschool.org) uses the modified Alpha-Omega Lifepac or computer discs from the BJU for mathematics, language, science and Bible. For other subjects like civics and arts, local textbooks recommended by DepEd are used.

Four-hour class day

A regular homeschool day usually lasts about four hours, depending on the kids. This gives children more time for play or other lessons in arts, music and sports.

Many parents express concern about the kids' "lack of socialization" with homeschooling. They worry the children will have little social interaction with their peers.

But homeschooling provides many more meaningful opportunities for socialization. In fact, homeschooled kids interact better with people of different ages. They are not intimidated by older kids or look down on the younger ones.

Our eldest son, now in a regular high school, says he misses homeschool because now he has less time to play basketball with his friends in our village.

A major practical advantage of homeschooling is cost. It is cheaper to educate a child at home than to send him/her to one of the better schools, usually a private, exclusive institution.

Parents can use the savings to further their children's education. TMA encourages parents to use the money for lessons in arts, music and sports, whichever field the child has shown interest in or talent for. The lessons can be combined in Hispanic, arts and physical education) subjects.

It is strongly advised that parents follow a regular daily schedule for lessons. This conduct one-on-one sessions with our children. They get to ask questions they normally could not or would not ask in a classroom. The textbooks are fully used from cover to cover.

If a child has difficulty grasping a lesson, we spend as much time as needed until he/she learns it.

Fun times

For Hola (home economics and livelihood education) subjects, you can have quality time baking or cooking together. You can also have them do household chores like dusting the dining table, vacuuming the floors and cleaning their room. These are lessons that will help make them more self-sufficient and self-reliant.

But the biggest benefit we derive from homeschooling our children is that we are able to teach them the values we want them to have. We feel we have a responsibility to raise children who are God-fearing and have a strong sense of right and wrong. We both believe that, as parents, ownership God will ask us how we raised the children whom He gave to us on loan, not the real estate.

Joy Tan-Ai Mendoza of TMA wants parents to see homeschool as a tool, rather than just an alternative. She believes parents can teach better such things as character, values, principles, love for learning, and spiritual perspective.

But Mendoza stresses that parents have to be committed to homeschooling. The concept is not for those who cannot spare the time, energy and involvement.

Homeschooling provides children an education that will not only increase their knowledge, but also develop the character, values and principles they need in life.

EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Teacher heroes get the accolade they deserve

"I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED NUMbers," says Leonilyn Bulalayao, one of my best students a few years ago in ninth education at the Ateneo de Manila University graduate school. "I dreamed of being an accountant. Never did I imagine myself teaching in a classroom, cooking home plans and going over academic papers. But, looking back now, I feel that life has its own purpose and some things, good and bad, are truly beyond our control."

Bulalayao was born to Norma Rizza but Subeo was a farmer and her mother, a homemaker. "Our parents instilled in us the value of education as the only path to a better future. We learned to dream, for ourselves and for them."

But when Bulalayao was 10 years old, her father died, and money became tight. When she graduated valedictorian from high school, she felt a bitter irony.

"I exhorted my co-graduates to pursue and achieve their dreams. But I couldn't help feeling sorry for myself. I felt that life was unfair and I was frightened by the thought that my dream of a college (education) was going to remain just that—a dream."

Bulalayao worked in a garment factory for five long years. But she mustered the courage to take a scholarship examination, which she passed. She went to college, majoring not in accounting, which entailed additional expenses, but in Education. "But after meeting mathematics quite intimidating, I have no regrets."

Since 1987, Bulalayao has been teaching math and information technology at the Nuvo Rizza High School in Cabanatuan City. "Students approach math with anxiety, and motivational techniques go a long way in making (their relationship) changes. I use concrete objects to help them make sense of abstractions. I introduce songs to help students recall formulas, and games to build connections with real life."

Bulalayao has evidently succeeded—a number of her students have taken Education, maybe in math, as well.

In 2004, Bulalayao was chosen one of the Top 25 Innovative Teacher Leadership Award recipients by the Department of Education (DepEd). Her students have won regional math and computer contests. Her life story is included in a collection of Success-inspirational stories I edited, "Magic Pathways on Learning, Working, and Serving."

This Saturday, at the SMX Convention Center in Old Airport San Jose complex, Pasay City, Bulalayao and three other educators will be honored in the Tribute for Teachers by Dhon Learning Systems and Para-Bulan Foundation.

FROM LEFT: Leonilyn Bulalayao, Margarita Gabriel, Jocelyn Bayless and Fr. Edward Dirrer

Mangyan mentor

Forty years ago, Fr. Edward Dirrer, SVD, realized the only way the Mangyans could improve their lives was through education. Long treated as second-class citizens by lowlanders, the Mangyans needed to climb the downslopes, make their own decisions, and let their voices be heard.

Fr. Dirrer, fondly called "Amang" by the Mangyans, established schools throughout Oriental Mindoro, made inroads in the Nauwak Mangyan in Bongabong, Pilot Mangyan in San Teodoro, and Iharaya Mangyan in Victoria, and high school in Mangyan Education Center in Bait, Mansalay. Fr. Dirrer has founded around 30 elementary schools, most of which have already been recognized by DepEd.

There is always a danger that native peoples will forget their roots in their haste to adapt to the dominant culture. Recognizing this, Fr. Dirrer taught the Mangyans to preserve and develop their own heritage. Students attend class in traditional clothes, and schedules are adjusted according to the groups' customs and needs.

Fr. Dirrer has published Mangyan folktales in the book "Bitong Inuy." Here he is doing his best to preserve their writing system, one of the indigenous few left in the country.

Motorcycle teacher

Following in the footsteps of Fr. Dirrer is Jocelyn Bayless, who rides her motorcycle for hours (even when pregnant) to reach Mangyan communities. Pooling resources and elevens, Bayless brings much-needed resources to the tribes, such as cell phones and modern tools.

She conducts night sessions on basic and functional literacy for out-of-school youths and adult learners. She teaches them on cell phone repair, electric engineering, recycling. She trained the Mangyan Social Welfare Management Council and Mawanak Recovery Facilities for the Mangyans.

Bayless's goal is to help the Mangyans claim their lands high. She discusses with them the Indigenous People's Rights Act, and teaches them to be proud of their heritage.

Text master

In the southernmost tip of Leyte stands Sindangan Elementary School. Nice teachers minister to 187 students in only five classrooms. Agriculture is the main occupation, and students need to help in the farm as they have little time for homework.

But Margarita Gabriel is a true master. She came from a private school and, at first, found it hard to adjust to the "laid-back environment" of Sindangan amongst the perseverood and created a parent-tutoring program. Parents signed a contract with the school that not only required them to give their children time to do homework, but also to attend lectures.

Gabriel motivates the children by creating dough games, visual aids, and small rewards such as stickers (some of which she buys in studies herself). She rents students during recess, lunch and weekends, and occasionally looks for scholarships for deserving students.

Her patience and determination have inspired her students and fellow teachers. Sindangan Elementary School topped the Regional Achievement Test last year, and became a model inclusive.

Visit www.teachersmodern.blogspot.com.

Email the columnists at bicoolsh@yahoo.com.

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FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Chapter 3: What's so scary about a bus ride?

last chapter: Frannie and her friends met their new teacher. Frannie was scared about taking the bus to school.

FRANNIE SWISH frowns more to remember that she's been eating a packet of nuts 5 minutes. She was supposed to be doing her chores...cleaning her room and doing the dishes—but she couldn't stop thinking about what her dad had said about the bus.

"Why do I have to take the bus? she thought. "Why can't Dad take me to school every day?"

She started her chores to take her mind off the bus. At 10:00 she finished, she began to work on homework. She was supposed to write down things about her family to share with the class.

"Maybe I'll write how they don't like me and make me take the bus to school," she thought. She worked on her homework until almost noon. The family sat down at the table to a meal of home-baked macaroni and cheese.

"Mmm that was again!" complained Freddie. "Yuck!"

"That's complain...or you won't have any plankton in your cereal," Frannie's mother said.

"Yeah, don't complain. You don't have to take the bus to school," Frannie said.

"Frannie," her father began, "your mother and I have talked about this, and we feel that it is better for everyone if you take the bus."

"You mean better for you," Frannie said. "You just don't want to take me."

"We shouldn't talk that way. You know that I love spending time with you. Your school is just in the opposite direction from my office, and I need to be at work earlier than when your school starts. Also, your mom and I feel like you are getting old enough where you can handle the responsibility of riding the bus."

"Really?" So that's why you want me to ride the bus?" Frannie asked.

"Yes, really. We think you can handle it, and riding to school with classmates can be fun," her mother said.

"Okay, I'll ride the bus," Frannie said smiling.

"Sounds good," her father said.

Frannie went to bed that night feeling good about having to ride the bus. She was a little scared about not having access to an auto so, but she thought everything would work out. She fell asleep dreaming of the ride to school with a smile on her face.

The next morning Frannie got out of bed and got ready for school. She wore clean socks on breakfast and had a bowl of frosted fish flakes. Her mother said goodbye and Frannie walked out to go wait for the bus. When the bus pulled up, she was amazed. The driver, a red lobster, said hello in every one as they entered.

As Frannie swam onto the bus, her eyes nearly popped. She didn't see anyone she knew. The bus was full of older fish. She picked an empty seat near the back of the bus and sat alone. When the bus came to the next stop, Frannie was surprised to see her friend Carter jump the bus.

"Carter!" Frannie called. "Come sit here!"

Carter went and sat next to Frannie. "Hey Frannie-Fish," Carter said. "When did you start riding the seahorse out?"

"It's my first time," she answered.

"That's cool," he said. "Sammy and Sara ride it, too. They'll be here after the next stop."

Sure enough, Sammy and Sara joined Frannie and Carter, and the friends talked for most of the ride to school.

"Hey guys, you want to play catch with that oyster pearl I found?" Carter asked.

"Yeah!" replied his three friends.

They started playing a game of keep-away with the fish-like ball. The girl screamed. The other fish was a large brown blowfish, and as soon as she saw Frannie, she puffed out her body in full examination.

"What's the wise guy who didn't?" asked the blowfish.

"I'm sorry," said Frannie. "I didn't mean to hit you."

"Sorry doesn't cut it. Meet me behind the gym after school," the blowfish growled.

"What for?" Frannie was scared.

"Because we're going to fight, dummy."

"Oh no!" thought Frannie. "What do I do?"

Next Monday: 'Frannie and the Blowfish'

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contest • contest • contest • contest • contest • contest •

For this week, do a collage

SEE, HEAR, KEEP READING

"Frannie Learns A Lesson" every Monday and submit your art work if you want to be a winner like 13-year-old Jane Isaiah Isla of Calauit, Rizal.

Look at Jane's winning drawing below. This is how to keep Jared Frannie would look. He will receive a PHI Fish worth, the young farm stands from the makers of Swatch, for his drawing.

The Frannie art and writing contests are open to all students in the grade school level.

For Chapter 2, we asked you to make a colored drawing of how your "sea life" room would look if you were a fish. We hope you've submitted your entries.

For today's Chapter 3, do a collage of the blowfish in the story using small pieces of newspaper glued together on a bristol board. Give your blowfish a name. Make sure you submit it by Sunday, Sept. 28, which is the deadline.

The best drawing of a blowfish will win a special PHI Fish watch, the young Swimsuch from the makers of Swatch.

On a separate sheet of paper, write down your name, age, address, telephone number, cell phone number, school and the names of your parents. Include the signature of either of your parents. Paste the information sheet at the back of your Bristol board. Place the entry in a clear plastic envelope.

Submit your entry on an 8 x 12 inches Bristol board to any of the Swatch Stores (Glorietta 4, SM Mega Mall B, Trinoma), Kenneth Cobonpue (Makati Town Center, SM City North Edsa Main, SM Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Mall, Robinson's Place Ermita, Sky Garden Mall, Festival Mall, Vitbal Group, Ayala Cebu) or 6th International Office (77 Sgt. Catalino Salazar Street, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental) by specified deadlines.

Entries are judged on their originality (25%), creativity (30%) and composition (25%).

PHI Fish prize watches may be claimed by winners at Swatch Mega Mall during store hours.

Each week's winner must present all of the following to claim the prize: A valid original ID (birth certificate or passport), a confirmation letter or class accompanied, acknowledgement receipts from the Swatch store or Swatch kiosk or head office.

Win Oxford dictionaries

We want to involve the entire class and the teacher in the writing contest.

Teachers, here's an important reminder: The class can only write and submit Chapter 2 after the eight chapters of the Frannie story has come out because the story must have a logical connection in the first eight chapters.

The last chapter should be about Frannie and her friends are working on the first issue of their school paper. All entries must be between 300-1,000 words in length and in English. Deadline is Nov. 3.

Entries may be submitted online to learning@inquirer.com.ph (indicate the subject as "Frannie") or via mail mail to "Frannie Learns a Lesson Writing Contest" to Lessons Learning Section, PSE, 5 F, PSE Bldg., Pasong Tamo corner Paseo St., Makati City.

The date with the winning story will receive the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary—one for each student, one for the teacher and one for the school library.

For complete contest mechanics, e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph.

flink flink
National Book Store

WEEK 1 WINNER is 13-year-old Jan Isaiah Sala's interpretation of Frannie in her sea world.

Activity Guide

Using the Inquirer

1. Look for images or words relating to different types of transportation. Cut and paste them into the following categories: Land, sea, air.
2. Make a collage of the blowfish in the story using small pieces of newspaper glued together on a piece of paper. Give your blowfish a name.

To do and think about ...

1. Write a list of pros and cons of riding a school bus.
2. Make a list of chores you have. Now create a list of chores that Frannie might have in Coralville. Are there any that are the same? Compare your answers to your classmates. Create a graph that shows the most common answer for both Coralville and "land" chores.
3. Help Frannie do her assignment by finding things about her fish family to share with her class.
4. Partner with a classmate, friend or sibling. One of you should write a letter from Frannie to someone else asking for advice on her "little problem." The partner should read and then write a letter back giving Frannie advice. What will happen next? What do you think Frannie will decide to do after school?

Real life & values

Responsibility

See what main Frannie asked to accept responsibility? Discuss any situation where you have had to accept responsibility. How did it make you feel?

Meet the real inhabitants of coral reefs

A CLOWN FISH (Amphiprion ocellaris) hides in the arms of the carpet anemone where it remains safe from predators and, in return, acts as a warning to the anemone of would-be predators through its behavior.

PHOTOS BY RANGGOMEZ/TOUCH GRAPHICS

FEETS OFFER A LIKST OF MAAZ ing creatures.

The clown fish and the anemone live one of nature's great partnerships. The clown fish is the only species known to be immune to the anemone's venom. It lives within the protective tentacles of the anemone, giving it the nickname the "anemone fish."

Clown fish can be found on the sea floor inhabiting the warm waters of the tropical Pacific Ocean, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and Australia's Great Barrier Reef. There are at least 27 known species of clown fish.

The fins of tropical fish patrolling through the ocean show all sorts of bright hues and exotic patterns. The longnose butterfly fish (Forcipiger longirostris) makes every use of such color. It has a false eye on its behind that predators think they are really attacking its head. With this trick, the longnose butterfly fish can swim its lines and dart off the other way.

The blue tang (Paracanthurus hepatus) lives throughout the Indian Ocean and West Pacific, and is found in nearly the entire length of the Great Barrier Reef. They have blades on their tails and venomous fin spines, though, when they are alarmed they usually just hide in small groups in the branches of corals.

Yellow tangs or surgeonfish live in schools in coral-rich areas of lagoon and seaward reefs in the Pacific Ocean. They have a white spot near the base of their tail that is actually a sharp, retractable spine used in defense and combat.

Sea fish delight beach goers as word the world and continue to amaze scientists with their mysterious evolution. In the African country of Benin, large sand crabs there the children of the moon. Living in all of the seas of the world at all depths, they have been with us for 500 million years.

She fish have dozens of tiny hair that enable them to closely sense from place to place. Each step is a complicated gesture as it feels itself forward, like front-wheel drive. Bee adheres to a surface, and their faces before removing itself from the surface. Large starfish tend to snore at dusk while the small ones wait for night to fall.

—Pamela Valenzuela
Sandina Fuentes